



ALCHEMY EMPEROR OF THE DIVINE DAO

BOOK 02

Flying Alone

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Alchemy Emperor of the Divine Dao

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Synopsis

An ultimate warrior, the one and only Alchemy Emperor, Ling Han, had died in his quest to achieve godhood. Ten thousands years later, and he, with the “Invincible Heaven Scroll”, was reborn in the body of a young man with the same name. From then on, winds and clouds moved, as he set himself against uncountable geniuses of this new era. His path of becoming a legend has begun once more. At all eras, and underneath the heavens, I am the strongest!

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Chapter 101: Second Star Grass

Hu Niu's eyes were staring fixedly at Feng Luo. She had sensed a very strong hatred towards Ling Han from this human, causing her killing intent to rise. She kept staring at Feng Luo's neck, thinking of taking a bite out of that neck and dealing with that human once and for all.

Ling Han reached out and carried Hu Niu, and said, "He's too dirty!"

Hu Niu was obviously reluctant, shrinking in Ling Han's hold. A powerful killing intent was still brimming in her eyes.

"Pa," Ling Han gave a stomp of his foot, and a sudden, earth-shaking wail was heard from Feng Luo. His whole mouth was filled with blood. He opened his blood and spat out ten plus fragments of teeth. It looked like his entire mouth of teeth had been shattered with this powerful stomp of Ling Han.

The agony caused Feng Luo to tear up and snivel. It was a pain that bore into his heart and went straight into his bones. But because Ling Han had finally raised his foot, he was able to painstakingly get to his feet. As his eyes swept over his surroundings, he felt that all the people here looked detestable to him.

Indeed, they all watched as his whole mouthful of teeth had been shattered by a stomp of Ling Han's foot and did not even help one bit, damn them! They deserved to die!

However, he was well aware that the current him did not have the ability to oppose the people here, so he could only hatefully cast his eyes over all the people here before abruptly turning around to leave. Naturally, the person he hated the most was Ling Han. He would definitely not let the matter end here.

Wei He Le was also unable to continue staying here, so he quickly

followed in Feng Luo's footsteps and departed.

Qi Yong Ye and the others all frowned. Ling Han's actions equated creating a blood feud between himself and the Feng brothers. This was not something that could be easily resolved. But actually, the moment Ling Han had stepped on Feng Luo, this feud was already firmly established, and Ling Han was already firmly on the opposing side of the Feng brothers.

As long as Ling Han continued to stay at the Imperial City, then no matter how overbearing Feng Yan was, he would still not dare to take action against Ling Han.

Ling Han held no fear. In his last life, he had been a powerful warrior of Heaven Tier; though now he needed to start again from the beginning, did he really need to feel dread towards two such minor characters? He would eventually kill the two of them.

"Haha, the auction is about to begin. Let's go in!" Qi Yong Ye said with a laugh. This time, thanks to Ling Han, they managed to suppress Wen Hai Xing and his companions, so he was extremely happy.

"Let's head in together!" Li Si Chan suggested.

'En?'

He Jun Chen, Qi Yong Ye, and the others all revealed expressions of disbelief. Was this really Li Si Chan?

The Twin Pearls of the Imperial City, both stunning and devastatingly beautiful! That's how Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were known in the Imperial City. Li Si Chan was not like Liu Yu Tong. The latter had the image of an icy beauty, always maintaining a distance from those around her, that none may trespass.

Li Si Chan, on the other hand, was very gentle, but underneath her lay a core made of ice. Though she was polite and well-mannered to everyone, she similarly exuded an aura that

discouraged others from getting closer.

And now, she actually invited Ling Han to join her of her own volition. This was an inconceivable scene to Qi Yong Ye and the others. They were all wondering if they had misheard her, or if their eyes had blurred and they had mistook someone else for Li Si Chan.

But He Jun Chen's expression immediately darkened. From the start, he had disliked Ling Han, and now, it seemed as if the girl that he admired had some kind of unknown relations with Ling Han, causing powerful jealousy to rise within his heart.

"Alright!" Ling Han agreed, without thinking too deeply about it.

The entire group entered the Spiritual Treasures Pavilion. In this Imperial City, Qi Yong Ye's reputation was obviously not as useful as Li Si Chan's, for Li Si Chan actually had a private room which she led the others to.

The room could accommodate ten people, so it was not too much of a tight fit for them.

He Jun Chen started to ask about Ling Han's identity in a roundabout way. Which party did such an awesome person come from? But when he found out that Ling Han actually came from Gray Cloud Town, a town under the jurisdiction of Da Yuan City, he was instantly stunned.

How could that be!

A major, important character like Wu Song Lin actually wanted to invite Ling Han to tea? He could not understand it! He really could not understand it!

Qi Yong Ye and the others, on the other hand, had a slight idea what was going on. Because, back in Da Yuan City, there were already three Black Grade alchemists that gathered around Ling Han. Though Wu Song Lin's status was far higher than Zhu He Xin and the rest, it was still easier for them to accept such an

inconceivable matter.

Meanwhile, Ling Han was indifferent about what the others were thinking. The only thing he was focused on doing now was to see what good things he would be able to see in this auction.

After ten thousand years, it appeared as if a lot of pill formulae had been lost in the passage of time. For example, a treasure like the Dark Moon Grass was actually reduced to being used to concoct the Purple Origin Pill. Then, chances were that there would appear spiritual medicines that were extremely valuable, yet used very wastefully.

Mere moments later, the auction began. Because the auction today was only the small-scale auction that would be held every month, while there were many participants, not many of them could actually pay large sums of money for the items on auction. As a result, the prices of the items on auction all fell into a reasonable range.

Meanwhile, Ling Han was extremely astonished, because some of what he saw as extremely low grade alchemical pills could actually be sold at exorbitant prices.

These people were filthy rich, but very foolish!

He was secretly pondering that it was perhaps time for him to concoct some alchemical pills. Though there were still monetary notes of about hundred plus thousand in his pockets, looking at the generous way the people here were throwing around their money recklessly, a mere hundred plus thousand silver coins really could not buy much.

"I don't know how many alchemists are present here today, but the upcoming merchandise is truly a valuable medicinal ingredient!" The auctioneer performed with full effort on the stage. He gave a wave of his hand, and a beautiful female attendant walked onto the stage, carrying a tray. There were three herbs on the tray, and if one paid close attention, they were actually

glittering like stars.

"Second Star Grass!" Someone immediately called out.

"Second Star Grass is actually on auction. This is indeed a valuable treasure for alchemists, but for martial artists, this Second Star Grass does not have much value."

The auctioneer cleared his throat, and said, "That's right. This is indeed the Second Star Grass which can be used to concoct the Refreshing Pill. I believe that most would know of the usefulness of the Refreshing Pill. It can refresh an individual's state of mind. For a martial artist, this indeed does not have much value, but for an alchemist, its value is beyond measure."

For a martial artist, when their spirit was exhausted, they would not be able to continue moving their Origin Power and cultivate. Thus, the value of the Refreshing Pill for a martial artist was only extending the time he could cultivate everyday to be a little longer, but who would have so many Refreshing Pills to squander? Even if he had ten, that only meant that he'd be able to cultivate longer for ten days, and what use was that?

But it was a completely different matter for an alchemist.

Controlling flames was something that exhausted one's mental energy to a great degree, but some alchemical pills needed a very, very long time to be concocted, and if the alchemist's mental energy ran out midway and he did not have enough spiritual energy left, then what was to be done? It was in such moments that the Refreshing Pill would come into play. It would replenish the spiritual and mental energy of the alchemist, and he'd be able to successfully concoct an alchemical pill that he had initially been unable to concoct.

Thus, Li Si Chan's eyes immediately lit up. What alchemist dared to say that their spiritual energy was abundant enough to the point that they could concoct every single type of alchemical pill?

Ling Han's eyes lit up as well. At the same time, he felt an irrepressible urge to swear.

That was Second Star Grass, and it could be used to concoct the Second Star Pill.

And what were the effects of the Second Star Grass? To strengthen one's mental energy!

One was used to replenish, and the other could be used to strengthen. How could they be the same?

If it was merely replenishing, than it would work only one time. But if it was strengthening, then the effects were permanent. Moreover, even martial artists would scramble madly for the Second Star Pill, and the value of the Second Star Grass could not be compared to the value of the concocted Second Star Pill.

Ling Han was shaking his head mentally. The field of alchemy had degraded too much in this era. Previously, the Dark Moon Grass was used to concoct the Purple Origin Pill, and now, the Second Star Grass was being wasted to concoct the Refreshing Pill. He said to Li Si Chan, "Girl, let me have this Second Star Grass."

Li Si Chan knew that Ling Han was also an alchemist, so it was not a strange thing that he would want the Second Star Grass too, but she needed it as well. She could not help revealing a troubled expression. She could reject him, but this was a person even her master respected, but if she agreed, then wouldn't that mean that she would lose such a valuable medicinal ingredient?

Seeing her expression, Ling Han leaned towards her and said in a low voice, "I can sell you a cultivation technique that will allow you to speed up the recovery of your mental energy."

"What!?" Li Si Chan forgot their surroundings as she suddenly yelled.

Chapter 102: Major Origin Spirit Replenishing Technique

It was common sense that aside from taking medicine, time was the only way to slowly recover one's spiritual energy.

And now, Ling Han actually said that he wanted to sell her a cultivation technique that would boost the recovery of spiritual energy. How could she not lose her bearings from such an extreme shock?

"Bastard, what did you do to Si Chan?" He Jun Chen immediately shouted, his whole face filled with thunderous rage. When he saw the expression of utter astonishment on Li Si Chan's face, he assumed that she had been taken advantage of by Ling Han.

He had a crush on Li Si Chan, and when he had seen the previous intimate interactions between Ling Han and Li Si Chan, he was already extremely displeased. Now, he naturally could no longer restrain his resentment.

"It's none of your business, just sit down somewhere," Ling Han said nonchalantly.

"How dare you!" He Jun Chen had already been extremely irritated by Ling Han's presence, and now he stood up instantly in a rage, ready to make a move.

"Elder Brother Disciple He, what are you doing?" Li Si Chan immediately stretched out an arm to block his advance, her beautiful face filled with displeasure. That was natural. If there really existed such a cultivation technique that could aid in the recovery of spiritual energy, then its value would be absolutely beyond measure, and would also be something that all the alchemists in this world would go crazy about.

"You, are you actually defending him?" He Jun Chen's expression transformed drastically. He had already been suspicious of the

ambiguous relationship between Ling Han and Li Si Chan in the first place; now that Li Si Chan was actually protecting Ling Han, she caused his suspicions to deepen.

"You were the unreasonable one in the first place!" Li Si Chan said, displeased.

"I am unreasonable?" He Jun Chen almost jumped up, thinking, 'You adulterous couple are already flirting so openly in public, and actually dare to accuse me of being unreasonable?'

"Idiot, shut up!" When Ling Han saw that the bidding for the Second Star Grass had already begun, he quickly waved a hand at Li Si Chan, and said, "Get me this Second Star Grass, and that cultivation technique will belong to you."

He only had over one hundred thousand silver coins, which was definitely not enough to buy these three stalks of Second Star Grass; he naturally could only place his hopes on this rich woman, Li Si Chan.

If this wasn't the case, he wouldn't consider selling off that spiritual energy replenishing cultivation technique—even if it was only a low grade spiritual support technique, at least in the vicinity of Rain Country, it was still a priceless treasure.

Li Si Chan's attention was immediately turned back to him, and she asked, "You wouldn't be lying to me, right?"

"What do you think?" Ling Han countered.

Li Si Chan pondered that while this guy was actually younger than herself, his ability had already been recognized and acknowledged by two Black Grade high level alchemists at the same time, so it wasn't likely he would be making baseless boasts. After all, the acknowledgement of these two alchemists was definitely worth more than a few dozen hundred thousands of silver coins.

She nodded and immediately began bidding.

As an alchemist, even if she was only in Yellow Grade mid level now, the wealth she possessed was still very shocking. She easily raised her bid to the exorbitant price of over a million silver coins, and it still seemed as if it was something very easy for her.

Ling Han nodded internally. Looks like this girl's rate of success when concocting pills was not low, and that was why she had been able to accumulate such wealth.

...An alchemist being in a higher grade did not mean that he would definitely be able to earn money, or earn big money, because this was affected by their success rate. For example, let's say that the medicinal ingredients cost a million silver coins, and theoretically, thirty alchemical pills could be concocted from this amount of ingredients. The total worth of these thirty pills would be nine million coins, so with a hundred percent successful concoction rate, an alchemist would be able to earn eight million coins, and that was a profit of eight times his costs.

But, if the alchemist's success rate was only ten percent, then the three alchemical pills that were concocted would be sold for only ninety hundred thousand silver coins—not only would the alchemist not profit, he would have lost a hundred thousand coins.

The higher the grade of the alchemical pill, the lower the rate of successful concoction, so don't think that alchemy was a profession that earned big money; whether or not it would be profitable would still depend on the alchemist. The amount of money earned would differ with different alchemists.

For example, the Three Fire Guide that Ling Han had invented in his last life was able to greatly increase the rate of success, and brought a revolution to the field of alchemy. It also earned Ling Han the revered name of Alchemy Emperor.

While Li Si Chan was only a Yellow Grade mid level alchemist, if her rate of success was extremely high, she too would be able to earn a lot of money. Of course, the higher the grade of alchemical

pill, the more money could be earned with a high success rate.

For example, when Ling Han in his last life had concocted some Earth Grade alchemical pills, then no matter how much money you offered, you still would not be able to buy any. You had to trade either natural treasures, high grade cultivation techniques, or martial techniques in exchange for a few Earth Grade alchemical pills.

While he was in his pensive thought, Li Si Chan had already successfully obtained the three stalks of Second Star Grass, paying the high price of a million and two hundred thousand silver coins. After all, there weren't many alchemists here, and even if there were, they were obviously not as wealthy as Li Si Chan.

Ling Han smiled widely. If it had been his last life, it would not be possible to purchase such a priceless item with worthless crap like gold and silver coins. Spending a mere million plus silver coins, he managed to get it; this was an extremely great profit.

Very quickly, the staff of Spiritual Treasures Pavilion had delivered the three stalks of Second Star Grass over to them.

"When you give me that cultivation technique, I'll give you the Second Star Grass," Li Si Chan said.

The corners of Ling Han's lips twitched, and he said, "Do you think I would renege on a promise to a little girl like you?"

"Don't act so old and mature, you're one year younger than me!" Li Si Chan pointed out. She was actually really scared that Ling Han would act shamelessly, and take advantage of his younger age to trick her out of her money. After all, this was the money that she had earned through her own hard effort.

"Fine then, let's return to the Academy immediately," Ling Han could barely wait to concoct the Second Star Pill. The sooner he took the pill, the sooner his spiritual energy would be increased, and he would be able to cultivate for a slightly longer period of

time every day.

Accumulating this extra bit of time over a long period of time would eventually lead to a very significant increase of his cultivation.

"All right!" Li Si Chan nodded. She wanted to get her hands on a cultivation technique like this as soon as possible, too.

Ling Han carried Hu Niu, and the group of three departed.

Qi Yong Ye and the others snickered in unison, revealing knowing expressions. Only He Jun Chen's expression darkened like water; he had already developed a powerful killing intent for Ling Han.

After all, Li Si Chan was not only one of the Twin Stunning Pearls of the imperial city, she herself was a very impressive alchemist, possessing a future with unlimited possibilities. If he was able to marry such a woman, then whether it was for himself, or for the clan behind him, this would be a colossal gain.

This was his woman, and he would mercilessly kill all who threatened his position as her man!

Ling Han and Li Si Chan soon returned to the Academy. When they arrived at the place Ling Han was staying at, he told Hu Niu to play by herself while he began to impart a spiritual energy replenishing cultivation technique to Li Si Chan. The name of this technique was "Major Origin Spirit Replenishing Technique."

This was not Ling Han's own invention. Instead, it was an extremely common spiritual support technique in the field of alchemy from his last life. It was very effective for the recovery of spiritual energy for any alchemist below Gushing Spring Tier, but after the alchemist has passed into Gushing Spring Tier, its effects would begin to decrease.

Thus, Ling Han did not have much misgivings or reluctance, and directly taught it to Li Si Chan. Otherwise, the latter would have to

perform three kowtows and nine bows, completing the formalities of becoming his disciple, before he would be willing to teach her the real art of alchemy.

But for Li Si Chan, this cultivation technique was indescribably valuable and priceless. Her whole body was shivering, because she was really too overwhelmed with excitement.

"I, can I teach this Major Origin Spirit Replenishing Technique to my Master?" she asked very nervously.

"All right, then I'll sell it for a rough ten million!" Ling Han nodded without hesitation.

"When you sold it to me, the price was only a million and two hundred thousand!" Though Li Si Chan knew that Wu Song Lin could easily afford this sum of money, but as his disciple, she would naturally want to defend her Master's interests.

"That's because you're a beauty, so I gave you a friendly price. Your Master.... sigh, not pleasing to the eye at all, so of course I'd be selling it to him at the original price," Ling Han laughed.

Li Si Chan rolled her eyes at him, but because Ling Han was complimenting her beauty in a roundabout way, she was still very happy.

Chapter 103: Sword Heart

Li Si Chan very happily departed, and Ling Han lay on his bed for some rest.

It wasn't that he did not want to immediately begin concocting the Second Star Pill, just that he had never imagined that he would actually manage to obtain such a valuable spiritual medicine on his very first day in the Imperial City—how could he have the other supplementary ingredients on hand? As a result, the only option for him now was to wait until the next day to go to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion to buy the complete set of ingredients necessary before he could go onto the next step.

Conveniently, he still had to fix up his own courtyard slightly. After all, he would have to stay here for at least a few years, so it was necessary to set up some restrictions in the surrounding area. This would be one of the hidden cards up his sleeve.

Meanwhile, Hu Niu had lain down beside his legs like a giant cat, and very quickly, the sound of her breathing lengthened and became quieter. But if there was any little bit of disturbance, she would immediately be alerted to wakefulness, bare her sharp teeth, and growl.

Ling Han believed that with Liu Yu Tong's influence in the Academy, she would be able to find him very soon. Thus, Ling Han needed not think about anything else, and went to sleep very peacefully.

The night passed in silence, and early the next morning, after Ling Han had prepared breakfast and filled the stomachs of both himself and Hu Niu, he headed to officially greet his teacher. This was the basic respect that a student should have towards his teacher.

He pushed the door open and entered to see that Mo Gao was practicing his sword techniques. However, it was very odd. His

right hand held a sword while his left hand was firmly held in a gesture. There wasn't any sort of movement from him at all.

Was he practicing his sword techniques, or practicing some kind of Qi supporting technique?

"Hu!" Hu Niu meanwhile revealed a very defensive expression. Her hands were firmly pressed upon the ground, her whole body slightly raised, her small mouth was open, and there was a ferocious light flickering in her eyes. She was ready to make a move at any moment.

Ling Han was surprised. The little girl would only show such behavior when she sensed a threat, but the problem was, was this movement of Mo Gao very threatening?

'Wait!'

Ling Han's eyes gradually widened. His divine sense seemed to have detected something inconceivable. And that was the aura exuded from Mo Gao—it was extremely mysterious. It had a slightly familiar feeling to it, yet he couldn't really grasp what it was exactly.

Sword... that's right, it had something to do with his sword.

"You're here," Mo Gao said, "then accompany me in my sword practice."

"What sword technique is this?" Ling Han asked.

"It's not any sword technique, but a sword of invincibility!" Mo Gao declared incredibly.

Meanwhile, Ling Han's heart skipped a beat. He had sensed a very mysterious feeling from the aura that Mo Gao had been giving out just now, and now getting the somewhat even more mysterious way the latter was speaking in, Ling Han felt as if he had grasped something, though it still wasn't too clear.

"Does a sword of invincibility exist in this world?" He asked.

"A sword in the hands of an invincible swordsman would be a sword of invincibility!" Mo Gao said, "I am the sword itself, the heart of the sword is brightly lit. Able to pierce through every attack, and shatter every attack!"

"Hong," Ling Han felt as if his whole mind had trembled, giving rise to a towering tsunami wave.

Sword Heart!

No wonder he had felt a feeling of mystery yet this profound feeling was so familiar to him; so Mo Gao was actually cultivating Sword Heart.

He was not the slightest bit suspicious of Mo Gao putting on airs, because the overall level of martial arts in Rain Country was really too low. Simply being able to form Sword Qi, you'd be named as a ruler. There was no one who had managed to form Sword Ray at all, so how could Sword Heart be possible?

The heart is the sword that is brightly lit; that was the highest level of comprehension of sword arts. With Sword Heart, all the attacks of this world would be easily understood and broken down. One only needs to wave his sword once, and all attacks would naturally be broken apart.

Who would ever have thought that a swordsman at the mere level of the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier would be able to somewhat touch the level of Sword Heart?

No wonder that Mo Gao, an obvious genius in his youth—otherwise, he wouldn't have managed to enroll into Hu Yang Academy in the first place—had all of a sudden "gone mad". In truth, he hadn't gone mad at all, it was just that he had already begun to cultivate Sword Heart at that time.

However, it was immeasurably difficult to grasp Sword Heart. As a result, his cultivation had stagnated for these ten plus years, because he had concentrated all his efforts on comprehending

Sword Heart.

A somber respect came to life in Ling Han. This was Sword Heart. Even in his last life, there were not many elite swordsmen that had managed to successfully form it. But as long as one succeeded in forming Sword Heart, not only would he be invincible among all those in the same cultivation level, he'd also be able to disregard the colossal gulf of differing cultivation levels to kill a powerful enemy at a higher tier. It was incomparably feared.

He clasped his hands together, and said, "Please share your wisdom, Teacher."

Mo Gao was a bit surprised. Aside from himself, everyone else in the Academy thought that he was off his rocker. Even he himself, in these ten plus years, would occasionally doubt if he had made a wrong turn in life, and whether he really would be able to create a sword of invincibility.

And this young man, without any bit of hesitation, was actually willing to join him in sword practice. What deep trust this unfamiliar young man had towards him!

When he thought this, Mo Gao actually felt a little touched!

He, a solo swordsman with the sword as his only companion, completely isolated himself from everyone else. In the blink of an eye, ten plus years had already passed. He had spent it on sword practice, sword practice, and even more sword practice. And now, a young man actually held such admiration and trust for him, causing him to suddenly become excited.

This was a good student, he definitely had to teach this student well!

Mo Gao was thinking thus in his heart, and began to talk non-stop, "The art of the sword is like a person of noble character, magnanimous and devoid of even a single bit of vile character..." this was the understanding that he had come to through these ten

plus years of extreme focus and hard practice. He didn't even care if Ling Han could understand or not, and simply recited all of whatever he knew and had grasped.

Yet Ling Han was becoming more and more astonished. Although his cultivation level had dropped, his comprehension was still the one of that powerful warrior of Heaven Tier that he had been, so naturally, he could understand all of what Mo Gao was saying.

And it was exactly because he could understand everything that he was astonished beyond measure.

...Mo Gao's understanding of the sword had already completely surpassed his cultivation level. Even if he had yet to reach the level of 'the heart of the sword is brightly lit', he was just a mere step away from grasping Sword Heart.

In a place with such a low overall level of martial arts, and with himself who was at the mere level of ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, his fingers actually managed to touch the door that led to Sword Heart; how could Ling Han not be astonished?

When Mo Gao was finished speaking, Ling Han simply stood there without moving at all, silently digesting all that he had heard.

For any swordsman, this lecture was invaluable!

This was not a sword technique, nor was it a martial arts technique at the high level of Heaven or Earth Grade. It was only a lecture of an individual's understanding of the art of the sword. Yet it was an explanation that was very close to the core of the art, directly touching the base.

Of course, even if a swordsman had managed to form Sword Heart, the level every individual swordsman could grasp would differ, because Sword Heart was based on the individual swordsman's understanding of the art of the sword. But listening to such a lecture was too great a help for Ling Han who had, at the

moment, only formed five flashes of Sword Qi. It was as if there was a path of gold laid out in front of him, guiding his advance forwards.

Hu Niu instantly looked bored. Her hands held onto her ears, and she appeared very sleepy.

"Hei!" Ling Han suddenly leaped up, the sword hanging at his waist leaving its sheath. He quickly turned around on the spot and brandished his sword in a wave.

Five flashes of Sword Qi danced unhindered. "Shua, shua, shua," cold light flashed and flickered. But moments later, another needle-sharp flash of Sword Qi was actually formed, and joined the previous five flashes of Sword Qi.

The sixth flash of Sword Qi!

This flash of Sword Qi quickly grew, becoming longer and wider, and finally looked no different from the other five flashes of Sword Qi.

"Many thanks, Teacher!" Ling Han raised his clasped hands towards Mo Gao and offered his thanks. This was not as simple as only having formed a flash of Sword Qi. He would be able to benefit from Mo Gao's lecture throughout his whole life. If he managed to grasp Sword Heart in this lifetime, then Mo Gao's lecture would at least have helped him save half the time he needed to be able to reach that step.

He had never thought this would happen. The only reason why he had come to Hu Yang Academy was to make Ling Dong Xing happy, yet he would actually have such an unexpected gain.

He's earned big!

Chapter 104: Embarrassingly Short of Money

Mo Gao was also astonished.

In his opinion, any student that would have been shoved to him must have come into the Academy through a backdoor; there was not much future in developing such a student, and that was why he would be "wasting his time" with Mo Gao. Just now, he had spoken for so long and so much... rather than saying that he was teaching Ling Han, it was more appropriate to say that he had all of these words stuffed inside him for too long, so he desperately wanted to share them with someone else.

He did not consider at all whether Ling Han could understand what he was saying or not.

He had never thought that Ling Han would really have understood his lecture. Moreover, after digesting the information he had blurted out, Ling Han very quickly managed to form a new flash of Sword Qi.

If it was only a single flash of Sword Qi, he could still accept it. The problem was that Ling Han had already possessed five flashes of Sword Qi in the first place!

Five flashes of Sword Qi, what kind of concept was that?

Three flashes of Sword Qi and you would be able to claim the name of ruler. Five flashes, and that was a minor achievement. This was definitely a genius, and it was very likely that he had surpassed all those of the same age in Rain Country. But how could such a genius be shoved onto him to be taught?

Mo Gao really couldn't understand. However, when his thoughts took a different turn, he became extremely delighted. Because, Ling Han was now his student, and the higher the achievements his student managed to attain in the future, the prouder he would

become.

"Teacher, there are some parts I didn't really understand," Ling Han questioned Mo Gao after he had withdrawn his sword.

With regards to the level of understanding of martial arts, he was more than qualified to be the Grandmaster of the Grandmaster of Mo Gao. But if it was only looking at the comprehension of the art of the sword, Mo Gao was above him. The reasons were simple. Firstly, Mo Gao had immersed himself in the art of the sword for ten plus years, and secondly, he was indeed a genius swordsman.

"Whatever you don't understand, just say it," Mo Gao immediately said. It had been more than ten years, when had he ever been asked questions by a student?

Ling Han raised some of his doubts, and Mo Gao immediately gave him a lecture based on his own understanding. Through this process, he also obtained a great enlightenment for himself. One has to know that though Ling Han himself had not spent much time on the art of the sword, his knowledge as a former warrior of Heaven Tier was still there, so the questions he asked were all core questions.

Mo Gao continuously made sounds like 'yi', 'ya', and 'oh', his eyes becoming brighter and brighter. His expression was one of both delight and frustration, seemingly unable to contain his present joy. Unknowingly, the time had arrived at noontime. Mo Gao gave a long sigh, and said, "Your talent in the art of the sword is higher than mine. I do not have the face to become your teacher. Let's just do it this way, the both of us will treat each other as friends of the same generation, and have frequent discussions with each other."

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "In the art of the sword, Teacher Mo indeed has the qualifications to become my teacher. Even if I surpass Teacher Mo in the art of the sword someday, I will never forget the favor Teacher Mo has done by teaching me today."

Mo Gao was deeply moved. He would actually encounter such an exceptionally talented student. It was a pity that he was not qualified enough to take Ling Han as disciple. Their teacher-student relationship too was only formed because of the Academy.

"Oh~!" Hu Niu said pitifully, tugging on Ling Han's sleeve.

"All right, all right, let's go eat!" Ling Han bade Mo Gao goodbye and left the Academy. He then found a random restaurant, ordered some main dishes of meat and fish, and began feasting together with Hu Niu.

If you wanted to eat with this little girl, you really needed to be quick enough. Otherwise, whenever a dish was served, it would definitely be gone within mere moments.

One meal actually cost over a thousand silver coins, causing Ling Han to cry out that he really did not have enough money to spend.

This was because the prices in the Imperial City were very high, and this little girl really had too big an appetite.

He really needed to concoct some alchemical pills to earn money. Otherwise, it'd be a problem just feeding Hu Niu, what more to buy resources for his own cultivation.

There was nothing to be done about it. He had just arrived at the Imperial City yesterday, so there was a thousand things for him to do. He would have to start everything all over again.

Ling Han held onto Hu Niu's tiny hand, and asked around the people on the streets. This way, he soon found Heaven's Medicine Pavilion.

It really did deserve the name of the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion of the Imperial City. Merely the flight of a thousand steps leading to the entrance was impressive enough to provoke gasps of amazement. The steps were as wide as a hundred metres, slanting all the way upwards. There was an extremely glamorous, luxurious giant hall to be seen at the high level of three hundred metres

upwards.

Ling Han and Hu Niu climbed the stairs and entered the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion. Once they entered, they saw a sweet-looking female attendant responsible for sales walking forward to greet them, saying, "Honorable customer, how do you do? I am Xiao Ying. May I know what kind of alchemical pills you require?"

"I don't need any alchemical pills. I only need some ingredients," Ling Han said with a smile.

"May I know what ingredients you require?" Xiao Ying asked again.

Ling Han recited the list of ingredients he required; Xiao Ying had obviously been trained for a very long time. While she memorized the names and amounts of the ingredients, she even informed him of the prices of the individual ingredients.

"Honored customer, your bill comes to a total of three hundred and twenty thousand silver coins," Xiao Ying said with a slight smile.

Heaven's Medicine Pavilion needed to depend on the sale of completed pills to earn money. In case of ingredients, unless they were especially valuable—for example, like the Second Star Grass—their price would only be a bit higher than their cost. Thus, even if this was a huge purchase, the profit made by the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion was really not much. As a result, the amount of commission she could earn would naturally not be much either.

Three hundred and twenty thousand!

Ling Han sighed. He only had about a hundred plus thousand on hand. This was far from the amount that was necessary. But he wanted to concoct the Second Star Pill as soon as possible, so he said, "Please inform Fu Yuan Sheng for me. Just tell him that Ling Han is looking for him."

"Fu Yuan Sheng? The, the, the Pavilion Master!" Xiao Ying was

stunned for a moment, before suddenly realizing. Immediately, she was so shocked that she had even begun to stutter.

What kind of remote existence was the Pavilion Master? Aside from the Rain Emperor, there was no one who possessed a higher status than their Pavilion Master. Even the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans were only able to stand on equal footing with the Pavilion Master.

And now, a young man actually said he wanted to see the Pavilion Master. This was naturally troubling to her; there was no reason for her to inform the Pavilion Master of this at all.

"It's all right. You only need to tell him that I am Ling Han, and I believe Fu Yuan Sheng should even reward you," Ling Han said with a smile.

That was natural. He, the Alchemy Emperor, was here personally; Fu Yuan Sheng would definitely be overjoyed.

How would Xiao Ying dare to believe that? No matter how she looked, Ling Han looked to be only a young man of about seventeen or eighteen years old, so how could he possibly know the Pavilion Master? Even if the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans were here, whether or not the Pavilion Master would agree to meet with them depended on his mood.

But in the training that she had received, the most important thing was not to offend any customers. Thus, she apologized and said, "At my rank, I am unable to personally see the Pavilion Master, so please wait for a moment while I report this to the Branch Manager."

Ling Han would naturally not cause her unnecessary trouble, so he simply nodded, and sat down somewhere.

Hu Niu saw him sit down and imitated him. She climbed up to Ling Han's lap, and similarly sat very earnestly.

After a while, they saw Xiao Ying walked behind a man who

appeared to be in his forties and the pair was heading towards them. She looked to be in a bit of a panic.

"Brat, so you're the one who wants to see our Pavilion Master?' This middle-aged man looked at Ling Han disdainfully. He had heard what Xiao Ying had to say. In his opinion, Ling Han must have been embarrassingly short of money, which was why he had deliberately said he knew the Pavilion Master, thinking of using this way to bargain for a cheaper price.

He was really too naive.

Ling Han's brow frowned, and he said, "You should speak more politely."

"If you have no money, then don't pretend to be so capable!" The middle-aged man humphed, laughed loudly and said, "If you really do know the Pavilion Master, then I will eat this whole table."

He pointed at a long table at one side.

Ling Han put on a smile, and said, "I did not think you would have this kind of hobby. If I don't satisfy you, then wouldn't that be too unreasonable of me?"

"You're spouting nonsense!" The middle-aged man said coldly.

Chapter 105: Conceding Defeat

"Manager Yuan..." Xiao Ying called out to the middle-aged man in a low voice. Heaven's Medicine Pavilion had its rules. The first rule was: never, ever be impolite to any potential customer.

The middle-aged man cast a displeased glance at Xiao Ying, waved his hand, and said, "Somebody, chase this poor brat out of here!"

Xiao Ying did not dare to say anything further. She simply looked sympathetically at Ling Han and Hu Niu. This middle-aged man's name was Yuan Gang. He had previously only been an odd jobs worker here, but unexpectedly, a few months ago, his younger brother advanced to become a Yellow Grade mid level alchemist, causing Yuan Gang's own position to rise, allowing him to obtain the position of a minor manager.

Because he had struggled at the lowest level for a long time, now that he was in a high position, Yuan Gang had become extremely arrogant, always thinking of new ways to show off his present superiority.

Ling Han was extremely unfortunate—he just so happened to be this guy's target.

Two sturdy, well-built men walked over and stood behind Ling Han. One of the pair spoke, "Honored customer, please come with us."

Ling Han have a sigh. Did he really have to use force?

"Ling Han! Ling Han!" It was at this very moment that a sweet voice was heard from behind him.

Ling Han turned around to see that the speaker was actually Qi Zhan Tai. Why was the Seventh Princess of the Royal House of the Da Yuan King here? When he took a closer look, it seemed that both Zhu He Xin and Zhang Wei Shan were here too. In that case,

it was only natural that the girl was here too.

"Yo, never thought that a poor brat like you would have such a pretty wife!" Yuan Gang gave an envious look, then said to Ling Han, "Poor brat, lend me your wife for me to play with for a single night, and I could give you a twenty percent discount? Haha!"

"Pa!"

His face suddenly suffered a slap, his feet stumbled and he directly fell onto the floor.

The one who had slapped him was, of course, Ling Han.

"Bastard, you actually dared to hit me!" Yuan Gang got up to his feet in a single movement, his face filled with thunderous rage.

"So what? Can't you be hit?" Zhang Wei Shan walked over with a cold smile.

"And who are you!" Yuan Gang did not even think, and immediately raised his finger to point directly at Zhang Wei Shan's face. "Wha, what!" He gasped in shock. There was astonishingly a silver badge hanging on this newcomer's breast.

Perhaps there would still be some people who may not recognize this, but definitely not him, an "experienced senior" who had been working at this Heaven's Medicine Pavilion doing odd jobs for over ten plus years.

A Black Grade low level alchemist!

"S-Sir!" He hurriedly bent his knees in a bow, an obeisant expression on his face. The only reason he was in the position of minor manager was because of his younger brother, yet his younger brother was only a Yellow Grade mid level alchemist. Compared with this esteemed Black Grade low level alchemist in front of him, the latter was on a complete different level.

"Master, this guy was very bad!" Qi Zhan Tai said immediately.

"Pu!"

Yuan Gang instantly choked. This beauty was actually the disciple of a Black Grade alchemist, and he had actually dared to flirt with her; wasn't that practically seeking his own demise? He scowled miserably, and said, "This Young Miss, apologies for my smelly mouth, only knowing how to speak nonsense! Deserves to be hit! Deserves to be hit!"

He began to slap himself repeatedly with a "pa, pa, pa" sound.

"Young Friend Ling!"

"Young Friend Ling!"

Zhu He Xin had also walked over, and together with Zhang Wei Shan, they raised their clasped hands in Ling Han's direction in greeting.

"Grand-Grandmaster Zhu!" Yuan Gang had only at this moment spotted Zhu He Xin, and was so scared at this point that his whole face had turned pale. Unlike Zhang Wei Shan, who stayed long term in Da Yuan City to oversee the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion Branch there, Zhu He Xin had previously always been in the Imperial City. How could Yuan Gang not recognize him?

Yet these two Black Grade alchemists actually performed such a respectful greeting to Ling Han. How could this not scare him witless!

"The two of you are here just in time. Help me call over Fu Yuan Sheng!" Ling Han said with a smile.

Zhu He Xin took one look at Yuan Gang, then said, "Young Friend Ling, we don't have to trouble the Pavilion Master just to deal with a nasty character like this, right?" He was a Black Grade low level alchemist. He only needed to say the word, and this mere minor manager would be dealt with, no questions asked.

"Grandmaster Zhu, please forgive my blindness!" Yuan Gang hurriedly began to beg for mercy. But after speaking these words, he realized that the deciding factor in this matter should be Ling

Han, so he quickly turned back around, and said, "Young Master Ling, Young Master Ling, please be generous, and have mercy on me just this once."

"Hehe, you've forgotten, we have a bet going on between us!" Ling Han laughed, "Grandmaster Zhu, please help me go and inform Fu Yuan Sheng, and ask him to come over."

"Young Master Ling?" Zhu He Xin stepped forwards, and said in a low voice, "You know Grandmaster Fu?"

"Yes, I do. Help me call him over. I have something to discuss with him," Ling Han nodded.

"Then I shall immediately go call him for you," Zhu He Xin said quickly, turned around and left to do what he said.

Within moments, Zhu He Xin and Fu Yuan Sheng were walking quickly over towards them. Naturally, Fu Yuan Sheng was walking in front, while Zhu He Xin followed behind.

"Haha, Young Master Ling has arrived. Yet I did not come out to receive you personally, please forgive my slight!" Fu Yuan Sheng said hurriedly.

Yuan Gang's face had paled to a whole new level. So it was not just Zhu He Xin that revered Ling Han so much—even Fu Yuan Sheng treated him with such respect. Who was this brat? He was a little too awesome, wasn't he?

Ling Han smiled at Fu Yuan Sheng, then looked over at Yuan Gang, and said, "This bet should be counted as my win, right?"

"Of course, it's your win, Young Master Ling!" Yuan Gang took advantage of the change of topic and immediately said in a flattering tone.

Ling Han nodded, and said, "All right, then you can start eating!"

"Ah!" Yuan Gang found himself suddenly tongue-tied.

"What is it, do you need me to add some seasonings and cook it

for you? All right, so do you want it braised or steamed?" Ling Han said with a smile.

"Young Master Ling is really such a joker," Yuan Gang laughed awkwardly.

"I may joke around with my friends, but you are not my friend," Ling Han said calmly.

"What is going on?" Fu Yuan Sheng interrupted, his tone already filled with strong displeasure.

He and Wu Song Lin had just benefited from Ling Han's teachings the day before, which allowed the two of them to see a flicker of hope to break through to become Earth Grade alchemists. For the two of them, Ling Han could even be considered as half their Master.

And now Ling Han was obviously expressing his dissatisfaction, so he naturally was also extremely unhappy.

It was not very appropriate for him to ask Ling Han, and he would not be asking Yuan Gang either, so he directed his gaze at Xiao Ying.

Yuan Gang instantly began to signal repeatedly at Xiao Ying with his eyes, hoping that she would be merciful with her words, and speak a few good words on his behalf. However, Xiao Ying pretended she had not seen his desperate look and recounted all that had happened earlier from start to finish.

Fu Yuan Sheng was instantly enraged, and pointing at Yuan Gang's nose, he said, "How dare you! So you are already in the position that you can speak for me? Since it was your own words, then go ahead and eat!"

Yuan Gang's face twitched uncontrollably. This time, it was the command of the Pavilion Master of Rain Country's Heaven's Medicine Pavilion. Even the Rain Emperor himself would have to give him some face. Looks like there was nothing to be done;

whether he liked it or not, he was going to have to eat.

But still, how was he supposed to force himself to eat a table?

He found his resolve, and with a "pa" ripped off a table leg, put it in his mouth and began to chew. "Kacha, kacha." He was in the ninth layer of Body Refining Tier, so his teeth and strength were not too weak. It was easy for him to chew the table leg to bits.

When the other staff members saw this, they all hid a smile.

Yuan Gang was a nasty character that had been acting high and mighty after getting this position. There were quite a few people in Heaven's Medicine Pavilion who did not like the way he did things, but they did not dare oppose him publicly. They were naturally happy to watch the show of him struggling to stuff the table leg down his throat.

Ling Han, on the other hand, was not interested in watching the magnificent feat of Yuan Gang eating the whole table. He said to Fu Yuan Sheng, "You should just fire this kind of person. This young girl is quite able, so just let her take over the vacant position."

"I shall listen to Young Master Ling's arrangements," Fu Yuan Sheng said very humbly.

Xiao Ying instantly looked overjoyed, and when she looked at Ling Han, her eyes were filled with gratitude.

Chapter 106: Doubt

Yuan Gang repeatedly begged for mercy, yet who would really take to heart such a minor character? In the end, he could only leave in defeat.

The other members of the staff all wanted to break into applause out of happiness. This Yuan Gang was a vile character who had just gotten a bit of success recently, yet was arrogant without limits. They all felt that he deserved this kind of ending!

When Xiao Ying saw Ling Han, Fu Yuan Sheng, and the others disappear around the corner, she could not help revealing an infatuated expression.

A young girl like her naturally did not lack a romantic imagination. However, she knew that there was too big a gulf between Ling Han and herself in terms of status, so she was just fantasizing a bit. Her heart was filled with gratitude, because she had received a personal acknowledgement from Fu Yuan Sheng—her position in this Heaven's Medicine Pavilion would be unshakable.

For Ling Han, this was only a very small matter, and when he arrived at Fu Yuan Sheng's study, he had completely put the earlier incident out of his mind. He did not want to waste any time, and so voiced out his intention to "borrow" some ingredients from Fu Yuan Sheng.

Fu Yuan Sheng nodded and waved his hand. Of course, him waving his hand did not mean that he was refusing Ling Han's request, but that the medicinal ingredients would be a gift to Ling Han instead of a loan.

What a joke, this was a Grandmaster Alchemist. To be able to supply alchemical ingredients for Ling Han was his honor, what need was there for Ling Han to pay them back?

Ling Han did not act modest, and said, "How about this, I will concoct an alchemical pill here, and you all can observe the way I do it." He had decided to enact a specific alchemist skill. This was far from the level of the "Three Fire Guide", but would be indescribably valuable to Fu Yuan Sheng and the others.

"Good, good, good. But I would have to ask you to wait for a moment, to allow me to call some other people here to observe, if that's all right?" Fu Yuan Sheng asked cautiously.

It would be best if there were more alchemists here to observe and benefit from such a great opportunity. They would be able to improve together. Moreover, the more people there were, then the more possible it would be for them to observe clearly that alchemist skill of Ling Han. Afterwards, they'd be able to confirm and double-check with one another, so they would not easily forget any details.

Zhu He Xin and Zhang Wei Shan immediately looked a little guilty. The gazes they directed at Fu Yuan Sheng were filled with respect, because they had only thought of themselves just now, and had not even taken others into consideration.

He truly deserved the name of Grandmaster. He was indeed a person who thought of the bigger picture.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "You can, but it would not be appropriate for there to be more than ten people."

"I understand," Fu Yuan Sheng hurriedly excused himself and left. Meanwhile, Ling Han began to converse with Zhu He Xin and Zhang Wei Shan. Qi Zhan Tai stood at one side, unable to join in the conversation, obviously looking extremely bored. She was currently engaged in a staring contest with Hu Niu.

She saw how Hu Niu was so cute, and so reached forward to pick her up. Yet, because Hu Niu disliked strangers getting too close to her, she immediately bared her small white teeth, revealing a very defensive expression.

"If you don't want to be bitten, I'd advise you to move your hand away," Ling Han said to Qi Zhan Tai when he saw this happen out of the corner of his eyes.

"I am in the second layer of Element Gathering Tier. How could she manage to bite me?" Qi Zhan Tai did not believe his advice and instead extended her hand to reach out for Hu Niu at a faster pace.

Hu Niu was enraged. Suddenly, she gave a strike of her fingernails and a bite, her movements exceptionally quick.

"Ah!" Qi Zhan Tai hurriedly withdrew her hand, yet there had already appeared a bite mark on her fair, delicate hand. The pain almost caused her to tear up.

Ling Han picked Hu Niu up to prevent her from taking advantage and pushing on with her attack. He laughed and said, "Even I have been bitten before. You, at the level of the second layer of Element Gathering Tier, are really not that much." He turned back round and said to Hu Niu, "This is a friend, don't bite her again."

Hu Niu held onto Ling Han's neck, tilted her head and continued to stare at Qi Zhan Tai, her stare still ferocious.

Zhu He Xin and Zhang Wei Shan could not help but ask about Hu Niu's origins. When they found out the whole story, they were truly amazed, and felt that this little girl was indeed extremely fortunate. Even after dropping into a tiger's lair, she had still managed to survive to such an age.

While they were talking, Fu Yuan Shen had led seven people in, all of different ages. The oldest of them looked to be in his seventies, and the youngest was at least in his forties. All of them had at least one silver badge hanging on their chests, and some even had two—this meant they were all either Black Grade low level or Black Grade mid level alchemists.

"This is Young Master Han, and we shall observe Young Master Han concoct an alchemical pill later," Fu Yuan Sheng said.

Hearing him say this, all seven of the newcomers looked extremely surprised.

Who were they? They were all Black Grade alchemists, and in Rain Country, they could be considered very important people, with extremely high social status. If you were talking about concocting alchemical pills, they were naturally the ones who would be doing the teaching. What need was there for them to observe another person concocting pills?

If the person they would be observing was either Fu Yuan Sheng or Wu Song Ling, that would be fine. As the only two Black Grade high level alchemists in Rain Country, these two men have naturally won the reverence and respect of all alchemists.

But now, Fu Yuan Sheng actually wanted them to observe a young man concoct an alchemical pill, how could they accept that?

Alchemists... belonging to an extremely rare and extremely important profession caused everyone in this field to be extremely proud, and the higher their grade, the prouder they were. Immediately, there were a few of the alchemists who looked insulted and angered, but because of Fu Yuan Sheng's status, they did not lose their temper.

Among them, one of the alchemists in his forties could not hold himself back and said, "Pavilion Master, you're joking with us, right? You actually want us to observe a little guy concocting an alchemical pill?" He had something else that he had held himself back from saying, 'This brat couldn't be your illegitimate son, right? To command so many of us to come here to instruct him?'

Fu Yuan Sheng looked furious. In his opinion, being able to observe Ling Han in the process of concocting an alchemical pill was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. Under normal circumstances, what alchemist would easily allow others to watch him concoct pills? Moreover, Ling Han had even said that he would be enacting an alchemist skill for their observation!

If it was not for his determination and desperate desire to develop and advance the field of alchemy in Rain Country, then why else would he have called others here to observe?

"He Lin, apologize to Young Master Han!" He said immediately in a deep voice.

"What?" That alchemist by the name of He Lin raised a brow, looking extremely disbelieving, "I am a Black Grade low level alchemist. My status is so high and revered, yet you actually want me to apologize to a young boy like this? Pavilion Master, are you intending to use your public office to avenge private wrongs?"

"How dare you!" Zhu He Xin shouted instantly. His eyes were wide with rage, and he looked extremely furious.

Both Ling Han and Fu Yuan Sheng were people he respected very much.

"Hahahaha!" He Lin laughed loudly, with no hint of respect in his expression. He only gave a cold humph, and said, "Some things are better left unsaid."

He was indeed not afraid of Fu Yuan Sheng, because his father, He Luo Yun, was also a Black Grade high level alchemist! Years ago, He Luo Yun and Fu Yuan Sheng were already rivals. They would be competing over everything—alchemy, martial arts... the two of them even fell in love with the same woman. In the end, He Luo Yun won the maiden's heart. And now, He Luo Yun already had one foot in the ranks of Earth Grade alchemists, and very soon, would be able to dominate fully over Fu Yuan Sheng.

As a result, he naturally thought that Fu Yuan Sheng was deliberately beating down on him—unable to win over his old man, he was actually seeking a feeling of superiority from his son. This was really too shameful!

Fu Yuan Sheng was actually trembling with fury. His well-meant intentions actually got such a payback.

"Get out!" Ling Han said coldly to He Lin, pointing at the door.

"Brat, how dare you actually speak to me this way!" He Lin was stunned for a moment, before becoming enraged.

"En!" Both Zhu He Xin and Zhang Wei Shan had stepped out to stand in front of Ling Han, glaring furiously at He Lin.

"Two dogs that don't know what's good for you!" He Ling humphed coldly, "I was intending to leave, even if you don't drive me out. Actually watching a wet-behind-the-ears brat concoct an alchemical pill, pei! Ha, ha, ha!" He spat and then gave three loud laughs, leaving with long strides.

Chapter 107: Four Forms Seal

Fu Yuan Sheng's face flashed with different expressions very quickly. Finally, giving a long sigh, he said, "Though this man is a little arrogant, he does indeed have a talent in alchemy that corresponds with his level of arrogance. I had previously thought to gift him with a rare opportunity, yet never imagined that... ai!"

He raised his clasped hands in Ling Han's direction in apology and said, "Young Master Han, please don't take his actions to heart."

Ling Han smiled softly and said, "It's fine." This time, because of Fu Yuan Sheng, he would not pursue the issue, but if He Lin dared to act so pompous in front of him again, he would definitely shatter all the teeth in the latter's mouth!

"Then let's begin!"

Fu Yuan Sheng had already brought all the medicinal ingredients Ling Han had requested for, and Ling Han had also taken out the Second Star Grass.

All the people here were Black Grade alchemists, so how could they not recognize the Second Star Grass. A few of them instantly looked resentful—they were actually called here to observe a young junior concoct the Refreshing Pill? This was practically an insult to them!

Unfortunately, they did not have a father who was also a Black Grade high level alchemist. Thus, though they were slightly displeased with Fu Yuan Sheng's actions, they dared not express that displeasure. However, their faces had all turned a bit sour.

When Zhu He Xin and Zhang Wei Shan saw the behavior of the others, both of them felt the urge to draw out their weapons to drive these people out. They actually dared to doubt Young Master Han? At the same time, Zhang Wei Shan also felt a bit of shame,

for he had also doubted Ling Han before.

Ling Han did not bother himself with worrying over what the others were thinking. As the Alchemy Emperor, what need was there for him to obtain the respect of other alchemists?

He grabbed the alchemy furnace and began to toss various medicinal ingredients into it.

"Does this brat actually know how to concoct alchemical pills? How can he simply toss in so many different ingredients all at once?"

"That's right. The first step of the concoction process is purification, and different ingredients require different levels of heat to be purified. If they are all thrown in at once, the only result would be that all ingredients would be damaged."

"Forget it, just take it as wasting a bit of our time."

A few of the alchemists present could not hold themselves back from mumbling complaints to each other quietly. It was not that they did not trust Fu Yuan Sheng, just that Ling Han was really too young. Moreover, in their eyes, his actions were simply too reckless.

They were not the only ones feeling doubtful. Even Fu Yuan Sheng, Zhu He Xin, and Zhang Wei Shan were extremely surprised, for the purification of the medicinal ingredients was the first step to concocting an alchemical pill. It was also a very crucial step. Could it be that Ling Han would cause a mess-up from the very first step?

It was really too bad that Li Si Chan was not present. She had previously watched the whole process of Ling Han concocting an alchemical pill from start to finish. Purification was only a piece of cake to him.

After tossing in seven different ingredients, Ling Han's hands trembled, and instantly, flames gushed out. His figure began to

circle around the furnace and struck the furnace with his palms repeatedly.

"Weng, weng, weng, tong, tong, tong."

From within the furnace, steam instantly gushed out. A herbal fragrance also began to spread out within the room.

"What?!" All of the alchemists in the room widened their eyes in shock at the exact same moment, expressions of absolute disbelief on their faces. They all looked as if they had just seen a ghostly apparition.

"Master, what's wrong with all of you?" Qi Zhan Tai asked in confusion. She had just barely entered into the field of alchemy, and had only just learnt the basic theoretical knowledge, thus she had no idea what everyone was so flabbergasted about.

"Gods, seven different ingredients really can be purified at the same time... am I dreaming?" One of them gasped in shock before Zhang Wei Shan could manage to answer.

"All of these seven ingredients require different temperatures to be purified, and it should have been impossible to purify them all at once. But this brat used a very intriguing technique. It seems like he has split a single furnace into seven parts, and the temperature in each separate part is different, allowing for the simultaneous purification of these seven ingredients to be possible."

"Amazing!"

They slowly regained their composure, though their faces still could not hide the admiration they were feeling.

"But this does not appear to have much meaning," one of the alchemists said hesitatingly after a while. After all, he was not capable of accomplishing such a feat, so the tone he used to voice out his evaluation lacked a bit of confidence.

"Indeed!" Even Fu Yuan Sheng nodded, "Being able to purify all

seven ingredients at the same time is indeed an amazing ability, but to purify the ingredients one by one would only expend a bit more time."

He pointed out in his own evaluation.

This was what would be called a flashy but useless move, for if there was even the slightest bit of a mistake in the process of purifying all seven ingredients simultaneously, that would mean that all seven ingredients would have gone to waste.

"No!" Fu Yuan Sheng suddenly shook his head, his eyes wide, "How could this herbal aroma be so strong?"

When he brought this up, the others all looked as if they had come to a sudden realization, and consequently, looked very astonished.

As Black Grade alchemists, the number of times they had purified medicinal ingredients in preparation for the concoction process was uncountable. They were especially familiar with those medicinal ingredients that were frequently used in alchemy. But when they smelled this herbal aroma that was currently spreading out in the room, it was obviously very different from the aroma that was produced when they had purified ingredients in the past.

The stronger the herbal aroma was, the purer the essence of the medicinal ingredients produced from the purification it indicated; also, when the alchemist advanced to the actual concoction process, the success rate of concocting the alchemical pill would be much higher as well.

It was a very simple logic. The fewer impurities there were, the less interference there would be with the actual concoction process.

But the problem was that as far as these Black Grade alchemists were concerned, the purification process was already improved to its limits. There was no room for even the slightest bit of

improvement anymore, yet why was it that the medicinal essence that Ling Han had obtained from his purification was so much purer than their own?

"Could it be, that this was why all seven ingredients had to be purified at the same time?"

"That is the only possibility!"

"That's right, I've heard a senior of mine tell me before that in ancient times, the really capable alchemists were able to purify various medicinal ingredients all at the same time, taking advantage of the mutual effects of the different ingredients to make it possible for the medicinal essence derived from the purification process to be even purer."

"Could that actually be true?"

"Hiss!"

Now, everyone could no longer remain calm. Whether the purification process took a longer or shorter time was not something that anyone would really bother about. After all, it was just a bit more or a bit less time. But if it was possible to actually increase the purity of the medicinal ingredients through the purification process, that would be an astonishing feat, and an immeasurably valuable contribution to the field of alchemy.

All of them could not help feeling remorse secretly. Because they had all thought that there was not much significance to this step, they had missed a lot of Ling Han's moves and techniques. Thankfully, there were still a lot of ingredients left over, so Ling Han would obviously be repeating the purification process.

All nine of them opened their eyes wide, not daring to miss any single movement of Ling Han anymore.

Qi Zhan Tai was very bored, but there were too many important people here, so she did not even dare to breathe too loudly.

Ling Han was very focused. After purifying all of the ingredients,

he began the concoction process of the Second Star Pill.

The technique he had used was called the "Four Forms Seal". It was very effective in controlling the heat of the flames. In his last life, this control technique was also extremely impressive, and found a very widespread use in the field of alchemy at the time.

Because he himself had been an alchemist in his last life, Ling Han could not bear watching the field of alchemy degrade to such an extent. Thus, he did not mind imparting relevant knowledge of alchemy at appropriate times to improve the overall level of alchemy in this age.

While he continued to concoct the alchemical pill, he also spoke about the key details and features of the Four Forms Seal.

All of the alchemists present, including Fu Yuan Sheng himself, behaved like they were absolute newbies to the art, listening attentively to his lecture with their faces filled with utter reverence. If this scene had been witnessed by others, they would definitely go crazy—it could be argued that all of the most capable alchemists of Rain Country were gathered here, yet they were all very seriously observing a young man concocting an alchemical pill.

There was indeed no age limit to learning... whoever's capable would be the teacher!

When Ling Han had finished the process of concocting the Second Star Pill, all of the nine alchemists were deeply engrossed in comprehending and figuring out the workings of the Four Forms Seal. They were all sitting cross-legged on the floor. Occasionally, it would appear that they were in pensive thought, and sometimes one of them would strike at the air with a palm. They were all trying to digest as much of Ling Han's lecture as possible.

"Let's go and eat some meat!" Ling Han smiled faintly, and picked Hu Niu up. He looked very pleased, because he had managed to

concoct seven Second Star Pills this time, and this would allow his divine sense to improve a considerable amount.

Hu Niu was instantly happy. Her favorite activity was eating.

"I'm going too!" Qi Zhan Tai said quickly. She was really too bored.

Chapter 108: Third Imperial Prince

Ling Han, carrying Hu Niu in his arms, stepped out of the room with Qi Zhan Tai accompanying them.

However, Fu Yuan Sheng was still a powerful warrior of Spiritual Pedestal Tier after all. At the very moment the group of three stepped out the door, he immediately came back to reality, and with a quick leap exited as well and said, "Young Master Han, are you leaving?"

"En, my role's over, so of course I'm leaving." Ling Han waved around the pill bottle that contained the seven Second Star Pills, looking very pleased.

"Please allow me to see you off, Young Master Han!" Fu Yuan Sheng said in a very sincere tone. He was already completely convinced by Ling Han's incredible skill in alchemy.

Ling Han smiled and nodded. If Fu Yuan Sheng wanted to see him off, that was fine with him.

They walked down the stairs, and right when they reached the beginning of the stairs, a servant boy approached and said, "Pavilion Master, the Third Imperial Prince expressed his wish to meet with you."

"Oh?" Fu Yuan Sheng stared blankly for a moment, then said, "I was just about to go down, so don't concern yourself with this anymore."

"Understood!" The servant boy nodded quickly. He had just spotted Ling Han and Qi Zhan Tai, which caused him to be lost for words, because they actually had Fu Yuan Sheng leading them downstairs, which was an extreme shock to him.

That was Fu Yuan Sheng, one of the few most powerful and most respected people of Rain Country!

The three of them soon arrived at the ground floor and saw there

was a young man and woman standing there. The two of them were standing upright, showing absolutely no sign of impatience.

The man and the woman both seemed to be about twenty-five or twenty-six years old. The man was quite tall and had thick, black locks. His eyes were bright and expressive, and held a penetrating gaze as if he could look into the secrets hidden in the deepest parts of the heart of anyone his gaze fell upon.

The woman had a very shapely, tempting figure, able to cause any normal man's mouth to start watering. Her face was very beautiful and her skin was as fair as white jade. Her hair was actually an unusual crimson shade of fire, which granted her a very unique charm.

The man was naturally the Third Imperial Prince, Qi Feng Yun, but who was this woman?

Ling Han was slightly surprised, because this woman was astonishingly in Gushing Spring Tier.

...In Rain Country, this kind of a small place, a martial artist that had managed to reach Gushing Spring Tier before reaching thirty years old had indeed made an astonishing accomplishment. She definitely could be categorized as a genius.

"Pavilion Master!" The Third Imperial Prince performed the proper formalities of greeting an elder upon seeing Fu Yuan Sheng. It was true that he was an Imperial Prince, but even if he had inherited the throne and was crowned the Emperor someday, he would still have to treat Fu Yuan Sheng with utmost politeness and courtesy.

"Zhan Tai hereby greets Third Elder Imperial Brother!" Qi Zhan Tai bowed slightly to greet the Third Imperial Prince.

"En, wait here for a moment. Just let me see off this very honored guest first," Fu Yuan Sheng said, nodding at the Third Imperial Prince.

Very honored guest?

The Third Imperial Prince could not help casting his gaze at Ling Han, because there were only three people standing behind Fu Yuan Sheng—Qi Zhan Tai belonged to the Royal House of the Da Yuan King, so naturally it was not possible that she would be worth such prioritized treatment from Fu Yuan Sheng, and Hu Niu was too small.

This young man... who was he that he was addressed by Fu Yuan Sheng as 'very honored guest' and make Fu Yuan Sheng actually personally see him off?

That was strange. He had obviously gotten hold of all the relevant, important intel of the Imperial City, so how was it possible that such an awesome character would suddenly appear out of nowhere?

"Please go ahead, Pavilion Master!" He said quickly.

As Fu Yuan Sheng escorted Ling Han out the door, he kept repeatedly inviting him to frequently come over and visit him at the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion before finally turning back round and leaving. He seemed to be slightly impatient—he was very much in a rush to study the Four Forms Seal closely.

Ling Han walked together with Qi Zhan Tai, while Hu Niu waved her little hands around excitedly, and kept saying, "Meat! Meat! Meat!"

"That Brother ahead!" The Third Imperial Prince had caught up with them.

Ling Han paused and looked over at the Third Imperial Prince, and said, "Yes?"

Wasn't the Third Imperial Prince looking for Fu Yuan Sheng? Why had he chased after them? The answer was very simple. There has suddenly appeared a person that even Fu Yuan Sheng would respectfully escort in the Imperial City—as the Third

Imperial Prince, he would of course want to get to know this kind of person at the first opportunity.

One had to understand that the Rain Emperor had seventeen sons in total. Out of these seventeen sons, there were at least five that were qualified to compete for the throne. The Third Imperial Prince would naturally befriend capable people with utmost patience in order to accumulate a power base for the day when he would be joining in the competition for the throne.

"I am Qi Feng Yun. If I may ask, could you tell me your respected name, Brother?" The Third Imperial Prince behaved in an extraordinarily polite manner.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "My name is Ling, Ling Han."

"Brother Ling, I still have some matters to deal with so it is really not convenient for me to talk too long. I hope that Brother Ling will accept this item as a gift from me; I believe that, in this Imperial City, a lot of people would give you a bit of face because of this item," The Third Imperial Prince handed over a violet-shaped badge.

"Thank you," Ling Han did not make any pretenses of modesty and accepted the badge from the Third Imperial Prince.

"Brother Ling, when I am done dealing with these matters, I will definitely seek you out for a chat," the Third Imperial Prince said, raising his clasped hands in Ling Han's direction before once again leaving in a rush with that beauty behind him.

Ling Han smiled as he weighed the badge in his hand, and placed it into his pocket.

"Ling Han, this is a token of the Third Imperial Prince. According to the rumors, the holder of this badge can eat at any restaurant of the Imperial City and not pay a single cent. Everything will be paid for by the Third Imperial Prince," Qi Zhan Tai said enviously.

Ling Han was stunned for a short moment, before suddenly

breaking out into loud laughter.

Qi Zhan Tai was curious, so naturally asked him why he had laughed.

"I think that the Third Imperial Prince will definitely regret this," Ling Han said.

"Why?"

"Because there's a real glutton right here!" Ling Han said as he rubbed Hu Niu's head.

Qi Zhan Tai was still baffled. Hu Niu was just a little girl. Even if she ate from morning to night, how much could she eat?

"There really are good people in this world!" Ling Han said ruefully.

The three of them left to have a meal at a restaurant. When she saw Hu Niu's terrifying appetite, Qi Zhan Tai finally began to worry about that clansman of hers. There was a real chance that Qi Feng Yun would be driven to poverty at the rate that Hu Niu ate.

Hu Yang Academy, Feng Luo's room.

"Bastard! Bastard! Bastard!" Wei He Le was pacing around in the room like a maniac, his eyes bloodshot, looking very surly. He finally stopped pacing, and said to Feng Luo, "Do you believe it? Do you believe it? Headmaster Wu actually expelled me from the Alchemy Department!"

Feng Luo's mouth twitched a few times. This was not the first time that Wei He Le had complained and grumbled to him. He counted internally—this should be the thirty-seventh... or was it the thirty-eighth time? Previously, he would still offer a bit of response and comfort Wei He Le a bit, but now he was completely not in the mood for it.

Having lost Wu Song Lin's regard, a mere Yellow Grade low level

alchemist naturally would not be someone looked upon too seriously by him.

"It's all because of that bastard, that damn brat!" Wei He Le's eyes looked like they were about to spit fire.

He had been so glorious, able to boast and basking in the spotlight as a genius of alchemy. Even those from the royal or noble families had to treat him politely and with courtesy. But now, it was as if he had dropped down from this extremely high position all the way to the bottom of the pit. His future was bleak and dark.

...A person who had been chased out by Wu Song Lin, what alchemist would still dare to take him in as a disciple?

Moreover, alchemy skill depended very much on imparted knowledge. If it was simply dependent on self-learning, what could he even manage to accomplish?

Which meant that he was completely done for.

Feng Luo saw all this happen, and could not hold back a cold smile from turning up the corners of his lips before saying, "Young Master Wei, I have a suggestion that would really cause some serious trouble for that brat." He had lost a considerable number of teeth, so he was forced to speak with a lisp now. One had to cautiously decipher his words before being able to understand what he was trying to say.

"Oh, what suggestion would that be?" Wei He Le immediately turned to look at him. The current him had lost practically everything, so he had become absolutely crazy. As long as he could get his revenge on Ling Han, he was willing to do whatever insane thing it was.

"Here, it's this!" Feng Luo took out a badge carved in the shape of a violet.

"What's this?" Wei He Le said blankly.

"This is a token of the Third Imperial Prince," Feng Luo said with a very devious smirk, "This is something that the Third Imperial Prince gifted to my brother. Tell me, if I said I lost this badge, yet this badge was discovered in Ling Han's place, how would the Academy deal with him? And how would the Third Imperial Prince react?"

Wei He Le's eyes lit up in understanding: frame Ling Han!

Chapter 109: Framed

"Hahahaha, theft is an evil, shameless act in the first place, what more when it actually involves the Third Imperial Prince!" Wei He Le could not hold himself back from laughing. At that time, even if the Academy had no intention of pursuing the matter further, due to the involvement of the Imperial Family, even Wu Song Lin's reputation would be of no use!

Anything related to the Imperial Family was never small, and Ling Han actually "dared to steal" an item belonging to the Third Imperial Prince. That was a definite pathway to death.

"However, there should still be a reason, right? Otherwise, what would a thief 'steal' this thing for?" Wei He Le asked, his laughter very quickly stopping.

Feng Luo snickered, and said, "This is a token of the Third Imperial Prince that he has only gifted to a rare few people. The holder of this token would be considered as a dear friend of the Third Imperial Prince. It is not only a symbol of status and identity, it also means that all charges the holder incurred at any restaurant or inn in the Imperial City would all be placed on the Third Imperial Prince's tab."

"Ya!" Wei He Le looked extremely envious. Although he was a genius of alchemy, he had not managed to obtain the Third Imperial Prince's favor, and wasn't gifted with such a priceless token. Now actually seeing a profligate, spoiled young master holding onto one, how could he not be envious?

Feng Luo smiled very proudly. This was given to him by Feng Yan, who had feared that his little brother would get into trouble in the Imperial City. If Feng Luo possessed a token of the Third Imperial Prince, then no matter who it was, they would have to give the Third Imperial Prince some face. He patted Wei He Le's shoulder and said, "Young Master Wei, the task of framing Ling

Han would be your job!"

"Me?" Wei He Le looked troubled at this. He only knew how to concoct alchemical pills, play around and show off, but framing someone was something he had never done before. Moreover, in the past, there were too many people who wanted to curry his favor, so no matter what job he wanted done, he only needed to say it and there would be someone willing to do that job for him. When had he ever needed to personally do anything?

"What is it? Are you not willing?" Feng Luo smiled coldly. He pretended to put away the token, "Then just forget about it. I just wanted to help you vent your anger in the first place, but since you're unwilling to do it, then I will not force you either!"

"Wait!" Wei He Le hurriedly called out, gritted his teeth, and said, "I'll do it!"

He was extremely embittered in his heart. He had offended Ling Han, but wasn't it all because he had stood up for Feng Luo? But now this guy actually said he wanted to help him vent his anger, and then he was really turning his back on him, absolutely heartless!

But after he had been abandoned by Wu Song Lin, he was no longer the "Young Master Wei" of old, but only a mere Yellow Grade low level alchemist. What right did he have to go against Feng Luo?

Feng Luo had a genius of martial arts standing behind him that could vaguely be close to the level of absolute geniuses like the Third Imperial Prince and Can Ye. Because of his brother, Feng Luo's own future prospects would be immeasurable, how was a down-and-out alchemist like him supposed to compare with that?

Due to his current dire circumstances, Wei He Le could only bow his head in acquiescence. If he dared to refuse Feng Luo now, that would mean cutting off his only chance for a bright future—if he followed after Feng Luo, he could possibly leave Rain Country in

the future, and thus get out of Wu Song Lin's shadow.

He accepted the violet-shaped badge, and silently walked to Feng Luo's side. His hands were lowered at his sides, obviously placing his position at a lower level than the latter.

"Hahahaha!" Feng Luo laughed loudly, his face filled with pride.

Even his brother had never thought that he would be able to take a slightly talented alchemist into his camp, had he? Let's see who dared to still say that he was a spoiled young master! Why don't you try taking in a Yellow Grade alchemist to show your own ability?

Wei He Le lowered his head, his eyes filled with hatred and regret. But things have already advanced to this step, there was no way he would be able to return things to how they were before.

After enjoying a meal with Ling Han, Qi Zhan Tai naturally returned to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion, while Ling Han brought Hu Niu for another walk around the shops and bought some materials to set up the restrictions around his courtyard. He then returned to the Academy.

He was now not in much of a rush to take the Second Star Pill; his priority now was to set up certain restrictions in the surrounding area of his courtyard.

This was an early warning system. If anyone intruded into the courtyard, they would definitely disturb the restrictions in place, which would then release an alarm that only he could sense. Even if he was not in the room, there would still be clues left behind that would tell him that an intruder had broken into his courtyard.

There was nothing to be done about it. He had very limited materials on hand, so he could only set up such simple restrictions. If it was in his last life, possibly not even powerful warriors of Heaven Tier would dare to barge through the restrictions he could

set up.

"I'll just have to make use of whatever is available to me. I don't have any enemies now anyways," he murmured.

...If Liu Yu Tong, Qi Yong Ye, and the others had heard his words, they would definitely jump out in objection.

No enemies? He really dared to say that!

Hu Bo was one, Feng Yan was another, He Jun Chen could also be considered as one, and there was also Nangong Ji. All these people were not easily trifled with, especially Hu Bo and Feng Yan. Hu Bo was a young master of the main line of the Hu Clan, and Feng Yan was a genius of martial arts that had the potential to become a ruler. If these people were still not considered enemies, then who would Ling Han actually consider enemies?

Unfortunately, they did not know that while Ling Han's current cultivation level was very weak, there was still the pride of a powerful warrior of Heaven Tier in his bones; how could he actually take these small rascals seriously? Furthermore, in his last life, he had the same kind of attitude, possessing a deep-set pride within him. He would never bow his head to anyone.

The restriction was extremely simple, so Ling Han did not expend too much time on setting it up. After that, he swallowed a Second Star Pill, and began to strengthen his divine sense.

From what Ling Han knew, there was no cultivation technique in this world that could strengthen divine sense. Only when the cultivation level rises would a martial artist's divine sense advance to the next level. This was a very passive process. For example, when he was still in Heaven Tier in his last life, his soul only needed to tremble slightly, and he could even directly erase the soul of a powerful warrior of Spiritual Infant Tier!

But he had always suspected that since divine sense could be recovered through cultivation techniques and strengthened with

the use of alchemical pills or divine medicine, then it should also be possible to cultivate divine sense through cultivation techniques; the only thing was that this kind of cultivation technique was not discovered yet.

This was not impossible.

After all, if it was not for the fact that he had come from ten thousand years in the past, how would he have known that there were so many pill formulae that had been lost in the passage of time now?

Obviously, there is a lot of good stuff that has been lost on the pages of history. Since it was like this in his current lifetime, then how could his last life be an exception to this theory?

A very real example was seen from the very last period of his last life, when he had visited various ancient historical sites from which he had obtained a few ancient pill formulae, which could all be considered to belong to the category of lost with time.

Thus, perhaps many, many years ago there may have been a cultivation technique that was meant to refine one's divine sense.

As he pondered, he was still absorbing the medicinal effects of the Second Star Pill. He suddenly felt very comfortable, for the soul was responsible for all the feelings and sensations of the body. Now that his divine sense was strengthened, he would of course feel an indescribable invigoration.

One after another, very soon, he had taken all seven Second Star Pills.

'My soul is almost twice as strong now!' Ling Han's eyes snapped open. His eyes had become even deeper than before, as if they were twin bottomless pits, causing anyone who looked into his eyes unable to help but fall deeply into them. He smiled, 'This is a benefit of strengthening my divine sense. Using my divine sense to dominate over my opponent could be considered as my unique

move. If my opponent has no defense against this kind of attack, then there is a high chance that I could kill him in an instant!

The current strength of my soul should be equivalent to the cultivation level of Gushing Spring Tier,' His smile grew wider. 'This means that I would be able to absorb Spiritual Qi at the rate of a martial artist of Gushing Spring Tier for my cultivation, and together with my Immortal Grade Spirit Base, hehe, the rate of advance of my cultivation level would probably shock even me.

I have to quickly reach Gushing Spring Tier! Only when I have reached Gushing Spring Tier will I be able to practice Black Grade cultivation techniques. That is the real beginning to the path of martial arts. Now, I am filled with advanced, high-level knowledge, yet have no ability to make use of what I have... this kind of feeling is really horrible!

"Eh? A 'rat' has sneaked in!"

Chapter 110: Dropping In

Ling Han really had not thought that this would happen. He had just barely set up the restriction around his courtyard, and he already had a night visitor coming in for a visit.

One has to understand that the place he was occupying now could actually be considered a haunted house, a place no one would be living in. If one argued that there so happened to be a burglar who had no understanding of the inner workings of the Academy and somehow stumbled onto this place to commit theft, then the possibility of this happening was really too low.

Who could this thief be?

"Rustle," Hu Niu suddenly stood up. She had the alert senses of a wild beast. Her nose might be even more powerful than a dog's, and she may have already caught the scent of the thief.

"Shh!" Ling Han gestured her to stay quiet. He had no desire to scare off the thief. He wanted to know why the latter had come first.

Hu Niu was firmly ensconced in his hold, and she immediately became quiet. However, her eyes still brimmed with a baleful look. In her beast-like way of looking at the world, this was her territory, and anyone who dared to trespass—whoever it was—should be bitten to death.

A dark figure made their way inside, yet did not move around everywhere. They only walked around the living room once before fumbling about a table a few times. After a while, the intruder turned around and left quietly.

A sliver of a smile crossed the corners of Ling Han's lips. At the instant the intruder had left, Ling Han had taken advantage of the moonlight to clearly see the face of the intruder.

Wei He Le.

Ling Han walked into the living room, lit a candle, and approached the table.

There was a wooden box on the table, and inside lay a few cheap little trinkets. When he opened the box, he saw that there was something new within.

A badge carved in the shape of a violet.

'This is?'

Ling Han could not hold back a strange smile as he took out another violet-shaped badge from within his pocket. This had been gifted to him by the Third Imperial Prince.

Now he had two such badges.

Why had Wei He Le secretly stuffed a violet badge into his hands?

"Oh!" Instantly, he understood what was going on here. This was an attempt to set him up. There would definitely be someone who would be reporting having lost the item, and Wei He Le would lead people to his place. Naturally, they would find the lost item here, and by that time, there was no way he would be able to escape being accused of "theft".

Moreover, the stolen item was even a token of the Third Imperial Prince. No one would dare to suppress this issue, and by that time, the lightest punishment he would get would be expulsion from the Academy, but it was another story whether the Third Imperial Prince would send his own people to deal with him or not.

The unfortunate thing was that Wei He Le would never have imagined that he would have coincidentally encountered the Third Imperial Prince today; he had even been presented with a violet badge from the latter.

However, even if he had not met the Third Imperial Prince today, since he had discovered the existence of this scheme, there was no way that he could still be successfully set up.

'Since you want to play, then I'll play with you a bit,' Ling Han smiled calmly, and replaced the lid of the box, having no intention at all to remove that badge from within.

A cold gleam flashed through his eyes. Since there was someone who wanted to die so desperately, then he would just have to let him die.

He returned to the inner chambers and began cultivation.

After his divine sense had been strengthened, the efficiency of his cultivation had risen to a whole new level. As massive amounts of Spiritual Qi gushed into him, it was all absorbed by his Five Elements Mix Chaos Lotus, and with the strict control granted to him by his powerful divine sense, this Spiritual Qi was swiftly converted into Origin Power to strengthen his Origin Nuclei.

"Originally, I would have needed around a month to rise to the next layer, but with how things are now, probably half a month would be enough," Ling Han smiled.

After his divine sense was completely exhausted, he began to cultivate the Indestructible Heaven Scroll in order to advance from Body of Dead Tree to Body of Rock Cliff. When he has completely grasped Body of Rock Cliff, he'd be able to parry sharp weaponry with his bare hands. The sturdiness of his physical body would become even more terrifying than that of some races with exceptionally powerful natural defense.

When he had finished cultivation, there had already appeared a sliver of white in the east. It was only now that he lay down to rest. Meditation could substitute for a part of the sleep he needed. Thus, he only needed to sleep for one or two hours, and it would be enough for him to be energetic for the rest of the day.

When dawn came the next day, he went over to Mo Gao's courtyard to discuss the art of the sword with him again.

One of them was an expert in the art of the sword, while the

other had an exceptionally high level of comprehension, and so naturally they would be able to use each other as reference and thus improve themselves. They had only experienced two discussions with each other, yet the benefits both had received were quite deep.

"Peng, peng, peng." Just when the two of them were embroiled in a fierce discussion, they heard someone banging on the door which rudely interrupted their conversation.

Mo Gao suddenly looked extremely displeased. His fondness for the art of the sword had almost reached the level of insanity. Once he was embroiled in a discussion about sword techniques, even if it was the Gods themselves here for a visit, he would ignore them. He walked over to the entrance, opened the door, and saw that there were over ten people standing at his doorway.

"Is Ling Han here?" A young man dressed in green-colored long robes took one step forward, his chin proudly raised, looking extremely arrogant in his demeanor.

However, he did have the right to be arrogant, for he was astonishingly in Gushing Spring Tier, a much more powerful martial artist than even Mo Gao.

"Who are you people, and what are you looking for my student for?" Mo Gao questioned instead of stepping out of their way and allowing them entry.

"Teacher Mo, we are members of the Discipline Committee!" Another young man dressed in black walked forwards, though his tone was much more even. Of course, this had something to do with his cultivation level, because he was similarly in Element Gathering Tier, so he did not have much of an advantage over Mo Gao in terms of cultivation level.

"Don't speak so much nonsense, tell Ling Han to come out quickly!" The young man in green robes shouted impatiently, with no hint of caring about Mo Gao.

Mo Gao stared blankly for a moment, and then said, "What offense has my student committed that requires the Discipline Committee to take action?"

The Discipline Committee, as the name suggested, was an organization that was in charge of enforcing the rules and regulations of the Academy. However, the majority of the members of this committee were students, and it could also be considered as a type of part-time job, for the members could earn academic points. Moreover, the members also possessed a considerable amount of power in the Academy, so quite a lot of students desperately thought up ways to squeeze themselves into the Committee.

"We suspect that he is involved with a crime of theft, so there is a need for us to search him and his room. Teacher Mo, you aren't thinking of covering for a criminal, are you?" The green-clad young man said coldly, showing no respect to Mo Gao at all.

"Nonsense!" Mo Gao was instantly enraged. In his heart, the sword was the most sacred existence in this world, and Ling Han had such a high talent in the art of the sword. The sword would reflect the swordsman's heart. How could such a person be a thief?

"Get lost!" He raised his hand and pointed at them furiously, almost about to draw his sword in ire.

"Mo Gao, even if you're a teacher of the Academy, you still have no right to cover for a criminal!" The green-clad young man said, his eyes passing over Mo Gao to look into the courtyard, "Get out of my way, or else I will apprehend you on the basis of obstructing law enforcement!"

Mo Gao was so angry his whole body was shaking. He was a teacher of the Academy, yet he was actually now berated and insulted by a mere student! His right hand was already lying on the hilt of his sword, a cold light shining from his eyes, ready to make his move.

"Teacher Mo!" Ling Han walked over to them, smiled softly at Mo Gao, and said, "Since they're here to look for me, then just let me deal with this matter!"

Mo Gao hesitated for a moment, but still lowered his right hand from the hilt of his sword. He would of course not simply watch as his own student was bullied by others, but he too wanted to know what was really going on here.

Ling Han's eyes swept over the entourage, and a smile of realization played about his lips—in this group of over ten people, he had recognized two of them to be Feng Luo and Wei He Le. He opened his mouth to say, "These two should not be members of the Discipline Committee, right?"

"They are indeed not, for they are the ones who reported the loss," the green-clad young man said, his eyes fixed in a stare at Ling Han. "Let me advise you not to have any delusions. In front of me, there is no one who can conceal their crime!"

Chapter 111: Apprehend Him!

"And who are you?" Ling Han cast his eyes at the green-clad young man, his gaze becoming severe.

"How dare you speak to me this way! Heng, you are indeed a wicked character!" The green-clad young man said coldly. His eyes were sharp as swords, staring at Ling Han intensely, and a terrifying aura was circulating around his body.

He was an elite of Gushing Spring Tier, and now he was using his aura. This was a kind of domination on the spiritual level.

Ling Han acted as if he felt nothing. He had just taken seven Second Star Pills yesterday, and had greatly increased the strength of his divine sense. Anyone who intended to use his aura to dominate over him would have to be at least in Spiritual Ocean Tier.

The green-clad young man could not help feeling surprised. He had already circulated his aura, but why was there no reaction from Ling Han at all?

"This is An Xue Ming, Elder Brother Disciple An. He is the team leader of Team Seven of the Discipline Committee," a young man dressed in black said, introducing the identity of the green-clad young man.

'Another thing, he is also one of Elder Brother's most faithful followers!' Feng Luo added internally. Since it was such a good opportunity, he would of course make the most out of all resources available to him and deal with Ling Han once and for all.

The "proof" was already prepared well in advance, and there was still a lackey of his elder brother playing the part of executioner—how would Ling Han be able to escape from this calamity?

"I'm very busy, and I don't have the time to waste with you! Take me to your place, I want to search it!" An Xue Ming said.

Ling Han placed his hands behind his back, and said, "What right do you have to do such a thing?"

"Are you trying to hinder the work of the Discipline Committee?" An Xue Ming said darkly. He was here on Feng Luo's request, so of course he would also take Ling Han to be his enemy; there was no need for him to be polite.

Ling Han laughed loudly and said, "Don't tell me that you people of the Discipline Committee just need to have a small suspicion, and you can simply rummage and search whoever's living quarters? If that's so, it seems like I have lost a bar of soap, and I suspect it was stolen by Wu Song Lin, so I'll have to trouble you to search his place for it."

"Pu!"

All of them choked in shock. Who was Wu Song Lin? Headmaster of the Alchemy Department, and a Black Grade high level alchemist. With regards to status, he was slightly higher than even the Headmaster of the Martial Arts Department, Lian Guang Zu. If they actually dared to search through his quarters, wasn't that practically hoping to die early?

Ling Han really dared to say that. He even dared to make a joke about Wu Song Lin, did he not treasure his life at all?

An Xue Ming's face twitched madly, feeling that this Ling Han was really a maniac. If the mocking words Ling Han had spoken about Wu Song Lin had actually spread out, he would definitely be beaten to death. How could he joke so casually about a powerful warrior of Spiritual Pedestal Tier? Not to mention that Wu Song Lin had another status in the form of the prestigious position of a Black Grade high level alchemist!

"You are trying to seek your own death!" He spoke coldly. Since Ling Han was such an arrogant fool, there was no need for him to have any more reservations. He said, "You actually dare to insult Master Wu, apprehend him!"

"Oh, let me see, who dares make a move?" Ling Han looked at the others contemptuously, smiling slightly, and said, "You people must consider carefully, and not be made use of by others! Otherwise, if you dare make a move against me, I will not be merciful at all!"

The others hesitated at this. Actually, aside from An Xue Ming, the others did not have much of a relationship with Feng Yan. Furthermore, when they saw the absence of fear in Ling Han's expression, it seemed as if he had some powerful background. It'd be best if they distanced themselves from this matter, for if they got involved in a fight between two big bosses, minor characters like them would be easily killed.

In that moment, no one dared to take another step forward.

"How dare you! You not only dare to shoot your mouth off, you even dare to threaten members of the Discipline Committee! You are really out of control!" An Xue Ming said darkly, and pointed at Ling Han, "Zhong Lin, apprehend him!"

"Yes, yes!" A young man reluctantly stepped out.

He naturally knew that An Xue Ming was a lackey of Feng Yan, and now this matter involved Feng Luo. Then it was more than obvious that this was a clash between Feng Luo and Ling Han... or it could be considered as a clash between Feng Yan and the person standing behind Ling Han.

And now, he was trapped in between these two powerful parties. Whoever came out the winner of this clash, there was no benefit for him, so of course he was extremely displeased.

But An Xue Ming was the team leader, so unless he intended to resign from the Discipline Committee, he would have to obey the former's commands.

"Younger Brother Disciple Ling Han, I advise you to surrender!" Zhong Lin moved into an attacking stance. He was in the ninth

layer of Element Gathering Tier while Ling Han was only in the fifth layer, so he had absolute confidence he would be able to apprehend Ling Han within ten moves.

Ling Han shook his head and said, "You still do not have the ability to apprehend me!"

Zhong Lin could not help becoming infuriated. Indeed, he did not have much of a background, but his power of the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier was authentic. Otherwise, he would not have been qualified to join the Discipline Committee in the first place. And now a younger brother disciple with cultivation in the mere fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier actually said that Zhong Lin was not capable of apprehending the former. This doubtlessly was a blow to his pride.

"Why are you still blabbering? Apprehend him now!" An Xue Ming urged.

"Excuse me then!" Zhong Lin made his move, and charged towards Ling Han.

Mo Gao wanted to make his move. He knew that this only student of his had an exceptionally high level of comprehension in the art of the sword, but the gap in cultivation levels was a big disadvantage. Six flashes of Sword Qi would grant him an extra three Battle Stars of battle prowess at most. But that still did not matter much as a martial artist of the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier would still be unable to match an opponent in the ninth layer.

However, Ling Han had already stepped forward to take this attack head on. He did not even draw his sword; instead, he directly threw out a punch.

"Peng!"

The two of them clashed head on, and a visible shock wave spread out from the point of contact. The two figures retreated at

the same time.

What!

When they saw this happen, everyone's eyes widened in shock, wearing disbelieving expressions.

Zhong Lin was in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, yet he did not manage to get the upper hand in a head-on clash? How was that possible! How could there be such a powerful martial artist of the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier? Are you sure you really are in the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier?

"I've underestimated you!" Zhong Lin instantly looked serious. Though he had no desire to become someone else's weapon, martial artists would of course have their own pride. As a martial artist in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, if he could not even apprehend an opponent in the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier, what would be left of his pride?

He took a deep breath and formed his hands into claws. He stretched out his arms to two different directions, bent and raised his left leg, looking like an eagle that was stretching out its wings in preparation for flight.

"Eagle Soaring in the Sky!"

He gave a furious shout, and his figure sped forwards, his battle prowess spiking instantly.

Battle prowess and cultivation level were two completely different matters. From the moment he used his martial arts technique, his battle prowess had spiked up to ten Battle Stars.

Ling Han only smiled softly, his eyes turning serious, and suddenly, a powerful aura emanated from his figure.

What!

Zhong Lin could only feel his heart trembling, as if he was a little lamb that had caught the eye of a fierce tiger, and he was left with

nothing but endless fear. This move 'Eagle Soaring in the Sky' suddenly lost its accuracy, and the deviation from his real target was excessively large.

Ling Han nonchalantly aimed a kick at Zhong Lin's behind, and "peng", the latter instantly fell onto the ground with a heavy thump, causing a large disturbance to the dust on the ground.

Complete silence.

In Hu Yang Academy, Zhong Lin could not be considered an elite, but among those of Element Gathering Tier, his ability was enough to rank him within the top hundred martial artists of Element Gathering Tier. Yet now, he was actually defeated by a mere martial artist in the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier in one move, how were they supposed to believe their eyes?

'What a great brat, no wonder he was so arrogant! So it seems that he does indeed have some ability!' A cold light gleamed in An Xue Ming's eyes. He stepped out and walked forwards. He had decided to make a move himself.

Ling Han looked slightly serious at this. An Xue Ming was in the Gushing Spring Tier, and if you converted his battle prowess to the level of Element Gathering Tier, that would at least be twenty Stars. Furthermore, this estimate had still not included the upgrade granted from the use of Black Grade martial arts techniques.

Of course, An Xue Ming may not possess any kind of Black Grade martial arts technique.

"Back down!" Mo Go stood in front of Ling Han, his eyes wide with rage. He had not stepped in previously, but as Ling Han's teacher, he would definitely not just stand by and watch as his own student was humiliated by another!

Chapter 112: Arrival of the Main Character

An Xue Ming hesitated slightly.

No matter how much of a piece of trash Mo Gao was, he was still a teacher of the Academy; how could he be so easily insulted?

Against Ling Han, he had a just cause on his side. Moreover, the stolen goods were already planted well in advance, so Ling Han would have no way to escape. Then, even if he used any rough movements in the process of apprehending Ling Han, so what? Who would actually defend the innocence of a person who had fallen from grace?

Mo Gao, however, was a completely different matter!

"Teacher, allow me!" Ling Han pushed Mo Gao gently to one side. An Xue Ming was indeed very strong, but the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier.... he could still manage an opponent of this level.

"Ling Han!" Mo Gao was extremely astonished. The reason why he had interfered was because he knew that An Xue Ming would never dare do anything against him. But Ling Han did not have any trump card to protect himself—no matter how much of a monster he was, he still would not be able to match an opponent in the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier, right?

"Don't worry, Teacher!" Ling Han said with a smile, and walked boldly forwards.

"Hahahaha, I have to admit that you are indeed quite brave!" An Xue Ming saw that his dilemma was solved without him doing anything and so could not contain his joy.

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "You are just a lackey, what right do you have to bark? Let us see if I won't shatter your whole mouth of teeth!"

"Insolence!" An Xue Ming's eyes widened in rage, and he was

about to make his move.

"Being so noisy in the Academy, what a scandal!" A dignified voice filled with displeasure was heard.

Everyone turned around to look at this newcomer, and saw that the speaker was a tall, sturdy man. The man was dressed in embroidered robes, exuding a powerful aura that caused anyone who dared to look upon him feel as if they should take a step back.

The Third Imperial Prince, Qi Feng Yun!

There was also a crimson-haired beauty following at his heels. She had a very shapely figure, and her lips were the shade of fire. However, this was the Third Imperial Prince's woman; who dared to look at her voluptuous bosom, or spare another look at her slightly raised behind?

"Greetings, Third Imperial Prince!" Everyone fell down onto one knee to pay their salutations to this man who may one day inherit the throne.

Yet Ling Han still stood as straight and upright as a spear. There was no one in this world that was qualified to make him kneel. This was the pride that belonged to the powerful warrior of Heaven Tier he was in his last life. Even if he had changed bodies, even if his cultivation level had dropped drastically, there was no way to change that.

...He would only keep his temper in check, but would never break his pride.

"Rise!" The Third Imperial Prince lifted his hand slightly, and then asked, "What's going on here?"

"In reply to the Third Imperial Prince..." An Xue Ming was cheering secretly in his heart. The violet-shaped badge was something that the Third Imperial Prince had gifted to a select few in the first place, and now that the main character was here, Ling Han's punishment would only be even more severe.

Most importantly, when they found the violet-shaped badge among Ling Han's belongings later, Ling Han would have no way to deny it, because how could the Third Imperial Prince not recognize his own token?

An Xue Ming immediately began to recount the facts of the matter. Of course, according to him, he had received a report from Feng Luo about having lost the token, and so, following "the trail of clues" left behind, went on to suspect Ling Han, which was why he was here with members of the Discipline Committee to search Ling Han's room and arrest him for theft.

When the Third Imperial Prince finished listening to this tale, an odd expression played about his features.

Others may not know, but how could he not know that he had presented Ling Han with a violet badge just the day before, so what need was there for the latter to steal another? Based on his intelligence, he very quickly came to the realization that this matter was an attempt to frame Ling Han for a crime he had not committed. Furthermore, the mastermind behind this trap was very likely Feng Luo.

Feng Luo watched all this happen from one side, and when he saw the odd expression on the Third Imperial Prince's face, he thought that the latter was angered, and so he quickly fanned the flames by saying, "Your Highness, it's all my fault. I asked for the token from my Elder Brother, yet did not take care of it properly, which created an opportunity for it to be stolen by a thief. Please punish me, Your Highness!"

He bowed his head and clasped his hands in the Third Imperial Prince's direction, but a cold smile curled up around the corners of his lips—even he would have to be punished because of not taking care of the Third Imperial Prince's token properly, so what kind of punishment would a thief like Ling Han get?

Hehe, who said he was stupid? He was an expert of the highest

grade in this kind of crafty plans and machinations. It was only that he had no use for this kind of thing in the past, as whatever he wanted done, would be done with one word from him.

The Third Imperial Prince cast a meaningful glance at Ling Han, before turning his eyes back to An Xue Ming, "So, what do you plan to do?"

"I naturally plan to search Ling Han's room. We have already obtained solid proof that Your Highness's token is definitely in his room!" An Xue Ming said confidently. He would of course never think that Feng Yan's brother would dupe him.

The Third Imperial Prince smiled, and took a look at the other people of the Discipline Committee, and said, "Do you all think this way?"

"Er..." the others all looked a bit hesitant. In truth, they were all very much confused. They had come all this way here merely because of An Xue Ming's command, so they had no idea what was really going on here. But they all knew about the relation between An Xue Ming and Feng Yan, so when they saw Feng Luo, they had already managed to guess a bit of what was going on.

And now, with this question from the Third Imperial Prince, they could not help but hesitate. After all, once this issue became bigger, whatever they said now would be testimonial statements. It would be extremely easy for others to take advantage of any loopholes present in their words.

...Being in the Discipline Committee was a very tempting job. There was no need for them to leave the Academy to go on practical training trips, and they'd still be able to earn academic points. Thus, they were naturally envied by a lot of people.

"We are not really sure!" They finally decided to tell the truth.

An Xue Ming instantly gave a cold humph in his heart, but this would not affect anything. As long as he managed to find the violet

badge in Ling Han's room, he'd be able to firmly nail this crime on Ling Han's head. He said, "Your Highness, this person has continued to put up a stiff resistance against our authority, please wait while I apprehend him!"

"Wait!" Ling Han said, and smiled, "Do not speak before you think. A good, well-disciplined student like myself is of course most ready to cooperate with the Academy, it's just that I don't like the look of you! But since the Third Imperial Prince is here, then fine, let's go and search my room!"

An Xue Ming was surprised. He never thought that Ling Han would simply submit like this.

"I have not committed any crime, so my conscience is clear!" Ling Han said.

An Xue Ming instantly understood, though he secretly laughed at Ling Han's naiveté. This was not something that could be simply solved just because you were "innocent". This was fine. When he was caught red-handed, there would be no way for the brat to deny the accusation. The lightest punishment would be being expelled from the Academy, or in the best case scenario, perhaps the Third Imperial Prince would act personally to deal with him!

Just go die, idiot.

Ling Han advanced without fear, while the others followed behind him. Even the Third Imperial Prince was no exception to this. If anyone who did not know what was going on saw this, they'd think that Ling Han was the commander of this big group of people.

An Xue Ming very soon realized this, and quickly shot to walk in front of Ling Han, looking at him furiously.

Ling Han smiled softly, and said, "What are you glaring for, something wrong with your eyes? Plus, why does a mere commoner like you dare to walk in front of the Third Imperial

Prince? Are you intending to commit treason?"

Damn, what a serious accusation!

An Xue Ming felt as if he was about to pass out. He only had not wanted to let Ling Han look so awesome, but why was he suddenly smashed with such a large accusation? He secretly shot a glance at the Third Imperial Prince and saw that the latter's expression was indeed a bit dark, causing him to feel even more dizzy.

He hurriedly asked, "Didn't you also walk in front just now?"

"Nonsense, I'm bringing you all to my room. If I don't walk in front, am I supposed to walk at the back? Has your head been kicked by a mule?" Ling Han mocked mercilessly.

"Er..." cold sweat appeared on An Xue Ming's forehead.

"Surnamed An, what is your intention? Disrespecting the Third Imperial Prince is considered high treason!" Ling Han said calmly, yet only made things worse.

"Do not slander me!" An Xue Ming never thought that a subconscious action of his would allow Ling Han to dig out such a huge problem for him. He hurriedly began to explain, really afraid that this moment of carelessness would be firmly taken grasp of as a weakness of his and used to attack him.

"Enough, since Ling Han told you to search, why are you all not searching yet?" The Third Imperial Prince said, his face filled with impatience.

"Understood!" An Xue Ming exhaled a relieved breath. Looks like the Third Imperial Prince did not intend to pursue the matter about his unintended disrespectful action.

Chapter 113: Idiot

"Start the search!" An Xue Ming turned around and pointed, his confidence returned.

"Wait!" Ling Han called.

"What is it? Do you have something on your conscience? Finally afraid now?" An Xue Ming smiled coldly.

Ling Han pushed the door open, and called out, "Hu Niu!"

"Xiu," a tiny figure pounced forward and leaped into Ling Han's arms. It was Hu Niu. The little girl lacked patience, so Ling Han had told her to play by herself in the room while he went to pay a visit to Mo Gao.

For Hu Niu, who had a very strong sense of territory, these people who had intruded her territory were simply challenging her to battle. The little girl would not care whether she would be able to defeat them or not. She would definitely pounce on these intruders, her little claws out and little mouth open to take a bite of these trespassers.

"All right, go ahead!" Ling Han said with a smile.

An Xue Ming could not help but cast a suspicious look at Hu Niu. He was worried that Hu Niu had hidden the "stolen goods" on her body, but when he thought further about it, there was no opportunity for Ling Han to communicate with Hu Niu. He didn't even know what the stolen goods were, so there should not be any possibility of this happening.

"Search!" He said to the other members of the Discipline Committee.

"Understood!" The others replied, and like a wave, they poured into the courtyard.

Ling Han waited outside with Hu Niu in his arms. The Third

Imperial Prince, the crimson-haired beauty, Mo Gao, Feng Luo, and Wei He Le too waited outside. They were not members of the Discipline Committee, so of course they could not simply barge into the living quarters of a student.

The sound of trunks and boxes being overturned was heard from within. Ling Han simply carried a chair out of the courtyard, and sat down, Hu Niu still in his embrace. When the crimson-haired beauty saw this, she too carried a chair out of the courtyard, and invited the Third Imperial Prince to take a seat.

Feng Luo would of course not be willing to simply stand—if you are all seated and I'm still standing, then wouldn't that mean that I would look like your servant?

"Halt!" He had just raised his foot, and his advance was stopped by Ling Han's shout, "I do not allow dogs to enter into my courtyard!"

"Wha, what!" Feng Luo instantly jumped up, "You dare to call me a dog?"

"You've already been stepped on by me quite a few times, yet why do you still not understand your own status?" Ling Han shook his head, and sighed. "Having been entangled too many times with a minor character like you would not be to my taste! There's nothing interesting in stepping on you, but if it was your brother, then there might still be a bit of a sense of achievement in that."

This was not him trying to exaggerate. When he had still been a powerful warrior of Heaven Tier, anyone who was qualified to be stepped on by him would have to at least be a powerful warrior in Deity Transformation Tier.

"Ling, Han!" Feng Luo spat out his name in two breaths, his eyes so filled with fury that it looked like they were about to spit out flames. He pointed at Ling Han and said, "You can be as stubborn as you like now, but later, you will definitely die!"

A smile turned up the corners of his lips, and Ling Han said, "I'm also bored of looking at this face of yours, it's best if you get lost from Hu Yang Academy!"

"We've found it!" Right at this moment, a gasp of shock was heard from within the courtyard, and a few moments later, An Xue Ming and the others marched out. The one in the lead was An Xue Ming, and he was holding a badge while a cold smile appeared on his face.

"Ling Han, what else do you have to say now?" An Xue Ming held the badge forwards.

"This is not mine," Ling Han said nonchalantly, after casting a look at the item.

"Of course it isn't!" Feng Luo interrupted, "This is a gift from the Third Imperial Prince to my brother. I suddenly discovered it was missing a few days ago, so it was indeed you who has stolen it!"

Ling Han erupted in laughter, and said, "Let me say that your intelligence is a bit low! You have to know, I have only arrived at the Imperial City the day before yesterday! Even if you want to frame me, you would still have to get your facts straight!"

Feng Luo stared blankly at this. He had never imagined that Ling Han had just arrived at the Imperial City and would already coincidentally bump into him on the first night he was at the Imperial City. He quickly argued and said, "I must've remembered wrongly. I should have discovered it missing yesterday or the day before yesterday."

Ling Han was filled with admiration, and said, "There is indeed something wrong with your brain, you don't even remember when you have lost it! Additionally, this team leader of the Discipline Committee, you are indeed quite skilled. In such a short period of time, you managed to narrow down all your suspicion to me?"

"Heng, you're now caught red-handed. Whatever you say now is merely you trying to escape the just punishment!" An Xue Ming

knew very well that the longer they spoke, the more gaps there would be revealed in their accusations. He only had to firmly hold onto the "truth" that Ling Han was a thief, and that would be enough.

"There's a problem..." Ling Han said with a smile, "I would like to ask, why would I steal this thing?"

"Ha! Ha!" Feng Luo obviously knew that Ling Han would ask this, so he laughed and immediately replied, "This is a token of the Third Imperial Prince, and anyone who has it in their possession would be considered a friend of the Third Imperial Prince. This is something that everyone in the Imperial City desire to possess!"

These words were indeed quite clever. These words firmly made Ling Han's crime solid, and also flattered the Third Imperial Prince at the same time.

"Ling Han, what else do you have to say now?" An Xue Ming said, smiling coldly.

Ling Han said calmly, "I don't have anything else to say, but I have something that I would like to show to the Third Imperial Prince."

"Oh, and what might that be?" The Third Imperial Prince asked very cooperatively.

"Here, this is what I wanted to show you," Ling Han took out his own violet badge.

What!?

Everyone's eyes were immediately fixed on that tiny badge. Even if the majority of them had only heard about the rumors, but no matter how they looked at it, it seemed as if these two badges were exactly the same.

"You, you actually stole another badge!" Feng Luo stuttered. He was really telling the truth. He really only had one badge in his possession.

'F*ck!'

Some of them had already come to realize the truth of the matter, and they turned to look at Feng Luo as if they were looking at an idiot.

From the beginning to the end, Ling Han had behaved much too calmly. They had thought that he had been so reckless because he was arrogant, but now when they thought about it again, his behavior was obviously him having a card up his sleeve.

"Oh, this was the gift that I had presented to Brother Ling yesterday." The Third Imperial Prince smiled as well. An intelligent person like himself would of course know what to do to cooperate with Ling Han's plans. There was absolutely no need to communicate anything to him beforehand.

Damn! Damn! Damn!

Everyone in the area felt an irrepressible urge to begin cursing. Are the two of you taking us for monkeys to be played with?

Ling Han weighed the token in his hand, and said, "I really never thought that Your Highness would be so generous. I heard that the holder of this thing would be able to eat for free in any restaurant of the Imperial City?"

The Third Imperial Prince could not help a twitch from appearing about his mouth. Could it be that this was the only thing Ling Han liked about his token? He, the one and only Third Imperial Prince, was only worth so much? If Ling Han was anyone else, he would have been furious. But when he had returned to visit Fu Yuan Sheng later, he managed to sense from Fu Yuan Sheng's tone that this Grandmaster Alchemist was filled with utter respect for Ling Han.

Who was Fu Yuan Sheng? He was definitely counted among the most powerful people of Rain Country, and furthermore, he was definitely ranked within the first few.

He was only an Imperial Prince now, but even if he inherited the throne in future, he would never dare to attempt anything against Fu Yuan Sheng. A person that even Fu Yuan Sheng respected... if he dared to be careless or disregard him, then wasn't that practically forcing Fu Yuan Sheng to treat him as his foe?

He was not the only son of the Rain Emperor with grand ambitions. How fierce was the competition for the throne? It'd be fine if he could not obtain Fu Yuan Sheng's support, but if an action of his actually forced the latter to join the camp of his rival, that would be too stupid of him.

"Haha, I can be considered as half the host in this place, so of course, I need to be responsible for the meals of my guests," he said with a laugh, and diffused this awkward topic easily.

Ling Han smiled widely, and said, "I hope the Third Imperial Prince would not regret this in future."

"How could that be possible!" The Third Imperial Prince shook his head resolutely.

...He could never imagine how ugly his expression would be when he went to settle his tab the following month.

Chapter 114: Thrashing

"Let me ask something... since I already have this thing, do I still need to steal another?" Ling Han looked at Feng Luo and smiled. Why did this guy have to use this badge, of all things, to try to set him up?

Of course, he had already discovered it when Wei He Le intruded the night before. If they had intended to set him up with something like female undergarments, he would have definitely delivered everything back to Wei He Le's place the very same night.

Everyone was speechless at this. Having a single token was a sign of social status, but having two did not mean that your status would be any higher.

"Who knows, maybe stealing is your hobby?" Feng Luo argued, "However it is, the lost item was found in your place, so you must definitely be a thief!"

"Idiot!" Ling Han shook his head, "Idiocy is really an illness. You experienced so many losses at my hands, and you still don't understand yet? In my eyes, you are only a mere clown!"

"Nonsense!" Feng Luo jumped up, "My brother is Feng Yan, the leader of the younger generation, and in the future, he would definitely become an invincible existence of the new era. You are completely unqualified to become my foe!"

"How noisy!" Ling Han's expression turned cold all of a sudden, and he began to walk towards Feng Luo, "It looks like you would still misbehave if you don't get beaten up some more today."

"What are you trying to do?" Feng Luo took a few steps back. He knew that he was no match for Ling Han.

"Can't you tell? I am of course going to thrash you! I am truly worried about your lack of intelligence!" Ling Han shook his head.

One of his arms was still firmly holding onto Hu Niu, but against a person like this, whose cultivation level of Element Gathering Tier had been raised completely with the use of alchemical medicines, a single arm would be more than enough.

"Ling Han, you dare!" An Xue Ming pointed at Ling Han, his face filled with furious rage.

To directly express his intention to thrash someone in front of him, the team leader of the Discipline Committee, like this, did Ling Han think he doesn't exist?

"Heng, I will settle things with you later!" Ling Han glanced at him, his eyes cold and dark. He said to the Third Imperial Prince, "Your Highness, do me a favor and don't allow him to interfere!"

This tone!

Everyone was shocked dumb. Are you ordering around the Third Imperial Prince like a servant? In the whole Imperial City, aside from the Rain Emperor, who dared to command the Third Imperial Prince in this way?

The Third Imperial Prince rubbed his nose a bit, and said, "Don't worry, Brother Ling!" Yes, Feng Yan did indeed have endless future prospects, but his current cultivation level was not even a match for him. Ling Han, on the other hand, had already obtained the full support of Fu Yuan Sheng. There was completely no need to compare these two people.

Since there was a need for him to make a choice between the two of them, then it was an extremely easy choice to make.

"Pu!"

Everyone once again choked. The Third Imperial Prince actually agreed! A noble member of the Imperial Family, and also one of the most beloved children of the Rain Emperor, actually agreed to Ling Han's request. This had to be some fantasy!

Ling Han smiled softly. In his last life, who knew how many

emperors were begging to do something for him? It was actually him who had given face to the Third Imperial Prince, all right? If it was not for the fact that his cultivation level was a bit low now, what need would there be for him to ask the Third Imperial Prince for help?

"Ling Han!" An Xue Ming took a step forward. He was Feng Yan's lackey, and if he simply watched as Feng Luo was thrashed, how would he be able to face Feng Yan in the future?

"Stay back!" The crimson-haired beauty jumped out to place herself between Ling Han and An Xue Ming. Although the Third Imperial Prince had agreed to hold An Xue Ming back for Ling Han, how could the Imperial Prince really make a move himself?

"Your Highness, this is the Hu Yang Academy, so I would like to plead with Your Highness to please not make things difficult for me!" An Xue Ming said to the Third Imperial Prince with gritted teeth.

"Who do you think you are? So what if we make things difficult for you?" The crimson-haired beauty shouted in reprimand. Her hands moved and she withdrew two daggers from her waist. The daggers gleamed blue, as if they were made of crystal, yet a coldness that struck fear into one's heart seemed to emanate from these two blades.

The Third Imperial Prince did not say a word. Obviously, he was aware of his own status, and disdained to argue with An Xue Ming.

Ling Han did not bother about them, and simply continued to advance towards Feng Luo.

"Don't come near me! Don't come near me!" Although there were over ten people here, Feng Luo did not feel any sense of safety. He continued to step back, and turned around in preparation to flee.

Ling Han shot forward and caught up with him, then grabbed onto Feng Luo's shirt. He pulled his arm back, and "peng," Feng

Luo had fallen onto the ground. Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "People say that once wounds recover, the pain is forgotten. You, on the other hand, have just had your whole mouth of teeth shattered just the day before yesterday, and now actually dare to once again trifle with me? Do you really not know how the word 'dead' is written?"

"Ling Han, don't you dare go too far, my brother is Feng Yan!" Feng Luo said loudly. He was only left with this one trump card to play.

"I know, I know. You've already said this a lot of times!" Ling Han said with a smile. "Pa," and his foot had kicked out and struck Feng Luo.

"Peng, peng, peng, peng." He gave Feng Luo a heavy thrashing.

After he was done, he finally took a step back, Hu Niu still in his hold, and said, "Tell the complete truth about your attempts to set me up!"

"Nonsense, I did not set you up!" Feng Luo groaned. He still had this little bit of intelligence. If he admitted publicly that he had set Ling Han up in front of all these people, then the lightest punishment he would get would be expulsion from the Academy.

"Let's see how long you can maintain your stubbornness!" Ling Han invited Hu Niu to join him, and together, the two of them thrashed Feng Luo enthusiastically.

Everyone around them sucked on their teeth in secret.

There were more than ten members of the Discipline Committee here, plus a teacher and the Third Imperial Prince. Yet Ling Han actually dared to thrash Feng Luo in front of so many people. He was indeed extremely brave.

Really arrogant! Really awesome!

Feng Luo was not a person with indomitable will. Very soon, he could no longer endure being pummeled, and recounted how he

had planned to set Ling Han up. He had even revealed An Xue Ming's part in his plans, completely betraying his teammate.

Hearing him reveal the truth, An Xue Ming and Wei He Le paled, wanting nothing more than to bite the fool to death.

"Heng!" The Third Imperial Prince immediately put on a severe expression, and said, "An Xue Ming, as a team leader of the Discipline Committee, you actually dare to break the rules. Though I am not a member of the Discipline Committee, but as an Imperial Prince of Rain Country, I will suggest to the Academy to give you a severe punishment!"

"No! No! No!" An Xue Ming was filled with fear and horror at this, almost going into an emotional breakdown.

"You all have heard Feng Luo's confession, right?" The Third Imperial Prince cast a severe look at the other members of the Discipline Committee, and with no exception, everyone nodded.

Are you kidding? Feng Yan was merely a True Disciple, while the Third Imperial Prince was a Core Disciple. Merely comparing these two different statuses was enough for them to know which side to choose. Moreover, one of them was an Imperial Prince, who had a chance of inheriting the throne in the future, who would dare oppose his words?

"No, I have nothing to do with this, it was all Feng Luo's commands!" Wei He Le said, trembling in fear. He really felt very wronged in this. He stood up for Feng Luo the day before yesterday, and the result was being expelled from the Alchemy Department by Wu Song Lin, and now he tried to set up Ling Han under Feng Luo's command. The result would likely be even more horrible.

Why was he so unfortunate?

"Whatever you have to say, say it when you are at the Discipline Committee!" The Third Imperial Prince gave a wave of his hand,

and said, "Take them away!"

"Understood!" The other members of the Discipline Committee coldly did as he said. At the end of the day, this Hu Yang Academy was established by the Imperial Family, and the Third Imperial Prince could definitely be considered as half their master; who dared to disobey his commands?

Feng Luo and the other two were completely pale as they were escorted away by the Discipline Committee.

Chapter 115: Big News

Team Seven of the Discipline Committee had a few female members and before they left, they all cast tender gazes at Ling Han.

For them, Ling Han was definitely a great material for a husband—someone who could even command around the Third Imperial Prince, how many such people were there in the whole of the Rain Country? If they could actually manage to score this kind of Prince Charming, then it would have completely been worth living in this world.

"Brother Ling, I had never imagined that you have such high accomplishments in the field of alchemy that even Grandmaster Fu is filled with utter respect for you!" The Third Imperial Prince said to Ling Han with a smile after everyone else had departed.

The reason why he had chased after Ling Han and had even presented the latter with his own personal token was because he had noticed that Fu Yuan Sheng valued Ling Han greatly, but the truth was he had completely no idea who Ling Han was. But when he went back to visit Fu Yuan Sheng again, he attempted to ask about Ling Han in a roundabout manner.

Though Fu Yuan Sheng did not exactly reveal anything solid, the few words that he had spoken gave birth to great shock in the Third Imperial Prince's heart.

Thus, even though only one night had passed, he had immediately come to pay Ling Han a visit—for someone like him whose ambition was to one day inherit the throne and become the Emperor, Ling Han was too valuable an asset!

Actually, he did not yet know that Wu Song Lin himself was also completely subdued by Ling Han's superiority in alchemy. If he did, he would definitely be even more astonished, and place even greater importance on maintaining a good relationship with Ling

Han.

Ling Han only smiled softly. The Imperial Prince of a mere small country would naturally not be taken too seriously by him. However, he was indeed not very strong currently, so he would not mind borrowing the power of this Imperial Prince. At most, he would repay this favor by helping this Third Imperial Prince climb onto the throne in the future.

A person like the Third Imperial Prince was of course a good conversationalist and an expert at manipulating the atmosphere, so their conversation continued in a relaxed and easy mood. When their conversation ended, the Third Imperial Prince excused himself and departed. Personal relationships would of course not be established and strengthened in a single day.

When it was noon, Wu Song Lin arrived and delivered ten monetary notes, each one million silver coins in value.

"Thank you, Young Master Han!" Wu Song Ling wore an expression filled with absolute gratitude.

If anyone who did not know the whole story saw this, they'd definitely be confused, wondering secretly whether Wu Song Lin had gone crazy. What person would deliver money to another and even thank them? But for Wu Song Lin, that Major Origin Spirit Replenishing Technique could never be valued with mere money. Even if Ling Han had asked for a hundred million, or a billion, he would still think of some way to collect the money.

Ling Han gracefully accepted the money. He was indeed lacking funds right now, and furthermore, the Major Origin Spirit Replenishing Technique was indeed worth this amount. Moreover, money was only important when his cultivation level was low, but by the time he reached Flower Blossom Tier, who would still use such worldly stuff?

However, money was still very useful to him now, so Ling Han smiled in satisfaction.

When Wu Song Lin saw this, he immediately took advantage of the opportunity to ask Ling Han for guidance.

Ling Han simply gave him a bit of guidance. Being able to become a Black Grade high level alchemist, Wu Song Lin was indeed quite talented. There were a lot of problems that only required a few pointers from Ling Han, and he would be able to understand the theory behind them. Otherwise, Ling Han would really not have the patience to teach him.

Wu Song Lin had just barely left, and Liu Yu Tong had brought Ling Zi Xuan over. Ling Han did not bother to venture out of the Academy to eat, and decided to simply use whatever ingredients he had on hand to prepare lunch.

Because there was an extreme glutton present, the amount they prepared was terrifyingly excessive. If anyone who did not know the true reason saw this, they would think that they were preparing a celebratory feast.

"I'm sorry!" Liu Yu Tong said all of a sudden.

"Why are you apologizing so suddenly?" Ling Han asked nonchalantly, not thinking too deeply about why Liu Yu Tong was apologizing.

"That Chen Yun Xiang has a bit of a background, and I haven't managed to deal with him."

"Who?" Ling Han turned to her and asked.

Liu Yu Tong could not help but press a hand to her forehead, and said, "You are really quite forgetful. Could it be that you've forgotten that an old guy attempted to snatch Xuan Xuan and Hu Niu away just the day before yesterday?"

"Oh!" Ling Han finally remembered who Chen Yun Xiang was. He had not taken this kind of minor character to heart in the first place, and Liu Yu Tong had also declared that she would handle the issue, so he had of course completely put this old lecher out of his

mind. He had never thought that even with the power of the Liu Clan, there was still no way to deal with him.

"Chen Yun Xiang has a daughter who is Sun Zi Yan's concubine," Liu Yu Tong explained.

"Sun Zi Yan?" Ling Han could not help laughing at this. How could anyone name their child that? Weren't they afraid that the child would be addressed by others as "Sun Zi" in the future?

"The Sun Clan is one of the Eight Great Clans of the Imperial City, and Sun Zi Yan is the most outstanding member of their younger generation. He should be about twenty five years old this year, and has just broken through to Gushing Spring Tier, so he is very much valued by the Sun Clan," Liu Yu Tong explained.

"And so, the Liu Clan does not wish to make an enemy out of the Sun Clan, and thus will not continue pursuing the matter?" Ling Han asked.

Liu Yu Tong sighed and said, "Indeed. Sun Zi Yan dotes very much on Chen Yun Xiang's daughter. My Clan had just made a move on the Chen Clan, and Chen Yun Xiang immediately went to seek the help of the Sun Clan. Sun Zi Yan stepped forward personally, and bailed Chen Yun Xiang out."

Ling Han gave an "Oh" at this. No wonder Chen Yun Xiang dared to collaborate with the Earth and Water Faction to kidnap young girls in broad daylight. So it was not just that he was outrageously bold because of his lust, he also had a Sun Clan to support him—even if anything actually happened, there would be someone to cover for him.

"Since the Liu Clan can do nothing to him, then I shall act personally," Ling Han said. In any case, Chen Yun Xiang in his eyes was no different than a flea. One stomp from him and he's dead.

Liu Yu Tong looked very ashamed. She had promised that she would handle the issue, yet in the end, did not manage to fulfill her

promise.

"Hahaha, don't look so down, you're a great beauty! Come, give me a smile!" Ling Han said with a laugh.

"Snicker!" Liu Yu Tong did not smile, but Hu Niu did. She had currently stuffed her mouth full of meat, and this smile of hers did not even reveal any sign of her teeth.

"Puchi", when Liu Yu Tong and Ling Zi Xuan saw her smile, they both broke into laughter.

"Yi, are you eating?" A melodious, gentle voice was heard. A pretty figure walked in. The figure was an extremely beautiful girl.

"Li Si Chan!" Liu Yu Tong was very surprised. She never thought that she would see Li Si Chan appear here.

"Liu Yu Tong!" Li Si Chan was also slightly shocked. The Princess of the Liu Clan actually deigned to eat with Ling Han? If this spread around, most likely no one would believe it. Who in the Academy did not know that Liu Yu Tong was a well-known icy beauty? It was really impossible to imagine that she would behave so intimately with a man.

"Oh, so you know each other. That's good, then I don't have to introduce you," Ling Han said with a smile.

Liu Yu Tong looked at Li Si Chan, and Li Si Chan looked at Liu Yu Tong. Combative flames flickered in the eyes of these two extraordinarily beautiful girls.

Though they were collectively known as the Twin Pearls, in actual fact, they did not interact much with each other. It was only that the both of them were too beautiful, as well as that one was extremely talented in martial arts while the other was very accomplished in alchemy, that they were collectively known as the Twin Pearls.

They were both clever girls, and seeing the other appear at Ling Han's courtyard, what did that signify?

For some reason, a slightly sour feeling appeared in their hearts.

"Have you eaten?" Ling Han asked Li Si Chan.

"No!" Li Si Chan had already eaten, but just as she was about to say that, she changed her mind.

"Then come join us for a meal," Ling Han invited with a smile.

Li Si Chan accepted the invitation without any reservations. She took a pair of chopsticks and a bowl, and slowly began to eat.

"Oh, right, were you looking for me for something?" Ling Han asked.

"Oh, I came here especially to inform you that a small earthquake happened a few days ago, and an underground river was revealed because of it. Moreover, there actually appeared ancient Spirit Tools that floated out with the river's flow!" Li Si Chan revealed a very big piece of news.

Chapter 116: A Lot of Spirit Tools

"What!" Liu Yu Tong immediately jumped to her feet, "Something like that actually happened?"

Spirit Tools could only be created by powerful warriors in Spiritual Ocean or higher Tiers; they would have to use their own energy to cultivate these tools, and after a long period of time, their respective cultivation techniques would be engraved on the tools using a unique method. These tools would then have power about equal to their maker.

It may seem like the creation of a Spirit Tool was a simple process, but there was a limit to the lifespan of a martial artist. To be able to successfully create and perfect a Spirit Tool would require at least twenty to thirty years. Moreover, Spirit Tools had very specific, very high requirements regarding the materials that could be used to forge them. As a result, there really were very few Spirit Tools in existence.

Of course, this was the situation in a small place like Rain Country.

...In Ling Han's last life, what warrior would not have a few Spirit Tools by their side? Some people who had specifically put their focus on the path of "Tools" would have a few dozen, or even a few hundred tools, and in battle, they would use all these Spirit Tools, and that was indeed a very awesome display.

But in Rain Country, the most likely to appear were the raw materials for Spirit Tools... how could there appear so many completed Spirit Tools?

And now, a lot of Spirit Tools actually appeared floating in waters of an underground river, what kind of unbelievable idea was that?

Ling Han did not have much interest in this. His target was

returning to Heaven Tier. With incredible, unbeatable battle prowess on his side, what Spirit Tool could he not obtain? Moreover, that black tower standing proudly within his Dantian was definitely a Spirit Tool as well, and most likely, it was of an inestimable grade too.

After all, he had been in Heaven Tier in the past, so no matter how weak his actual ability was, he had been uncountable times stronger than Deity Transformation Tier... yet a tremor produced by the black tower still obliterated him easily!

And now, he need only concentrate on breaking through to Gushing Spring Tier, and then he'd be able to enter the black tower and could perhaps discover the secrets hidden behind it. He may even be able to control the black tower. Since that was the case, what use was there for him to expend extra effort to work hard for the sake of obtaining other Spirit Tools?

"Yi, how can you still be so calm?" Li Si Chan looked at Ling Han strangely. When she first heard this news, she had also lost all composure like Liu Yu Tong, but what about Ling Han? He was acting as if he hadn't heard anything at all.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "Just a couple of Spirit Tools, what's so rare about that?"

"A couple of Spirit Tools?" Li Si Chan gave a hiss. This guy really liked to talk big! They were talking about Spirit Tools here, and for minor martial artists like themselves, if they could get their hands on a Spirit Tool, then even if it would not signify a complete rebirth, their battle prowess could definitely increase by three Battle Stars or even five!

And that wasn't awesome enough?

She tilted her head and fixed her eyes on Ling Han. She suspected that the guy was only pretending, but Ling Han continued looking completely serene, causing her to feel disappointed.

"Why did I not hear of this news?" Liu Yu Tong asked curiously. This was too inconceivable. She was the strongest member of the younger generation of the Liu Clan. Logically, if even Li Si Chan knew of this, then it was impossible that her clan would not inform her of this.

Li Si Chan deliberately sighed, and cast a pitying gaze at her.

Liu Yu Tong could not help feeling flustered with this sigh from Li Si Chan, and began to doubt her value in the eyes of her own clan.

Yet Ling Han only smiled, and said, "Yu Tong, you need not be sad. This girl knows because Wu Song Lin wants to do me a favor, and so sent her to inform me. There suddenly appeared a lot of Spirit Tools floating out through an underground river. This kind of news would definitely be strictly controlled, and only high-ranking individuals would have the privilege to go."

He paused, and continued, "There may be an ancient historical site at the source of the underground river, and passage of time may have caused a certain change in the site, causing the Spirit Tools from within to float out with the underground river. The higher ranks most likely are intending to open up this ancient historical site, but there may be unforeseen dangers within this historical site, so of course they would not be taking members of the younger generation like you girls to venture into this likely dangerous site."

Li Si Chan stared at him in dumb shock, and after a while, she finally said, "Are you really a seventeen-year-old young man? You said the exact same thing as my master!"

Ling Han laughed, and said, "I've actually lived for over two hundred years."

These words instantly caused these two girls to roll their eyes. Who would believe such a thing?

Ling Han gave a sigh. Even when he was telling the truth, it would be completely taken as a joke by others. This caused him to feel very hurt.

"Since that is the case, why would Headmaster Wu inform us?" Liu Yu Tong very consciously put herself and Ling Han together.

A faint displeasure arose in Li Si Chan's heart, and she immediately emphasized, "Master wanted me to inform Ling Han alone!"

This time, Liu Yu Tong did not look angry. She only gave a slightly meaningful smile.

The displeasure in Li Si Chan's heart increased a bit, and she turned back round and said, "Master said that these Spirit Tools seem to have their own consciousness, and there is no way for anyone to get their hands on them. After they appeared floating on the underground river, it would be fine if they were not disturbed. But if they were disturbed, they would immediately zoom up into the sky and disappear."

"Yi?" Ling Han suddenly stood up, a solemn expression on his face.

There were two kinds of Spirit Tools. One was the ordinary type, which was a Spirit Tool created by a martial artist engraving their martial intent on the Spirit Tool, as if they were putting their own stamp on it. As long as you managed to activate it, then it would be a very powerful weapon.

But no matter what, it was still only a weapon, an inanimate object. This kind of Spirit Tool's power would slowly deteriorate with the passage of time, and the martial intent engraved on it would also slowly disappear before the Spirit Tool would finally degrade into a normal weapon or tool.

This was very normal. A martial artist needed to absorb Spiritual Qi to replenish their energy, and once a Spirit Tool left the hands

of this powerful warrior and was used by a weaker person, the energy expended would be less than the energy inserted. Thus, naturally the power contained within the Spirit Tool would slowly be exhausted.

But there was another type of Spirit Tools, the ones produced with certain unique materials—in the process of becoming "Spirit Tools", they would develop their own consciousness, their own spirits.

Spirit Tools that had their own spirit were able to absorb Spiritual Qi on their own to replenish their energy, like how a martial artist cultivated. And no matter how much time passed, their power would not diminish in the slightest.

To forge this type of Spirit Tools, it'd require indescribably valuable and priceless materials.

Rain Country?

Perhaps, there may appear some of those extremely rare materials here, but there was absolutely no one with the ability to forge such Spirit Tools—even if powerful warriors of Spiritual Pedestal or Spiritual Infant Tier all blasted full-power attacks at these materials, there wouldn't even be a scratch on them, so how could they be forged into weapons?

Moreover, there was an even higher requirement on the martial artist's cultivation level to be able to cultivate such Spirit Tools. The minimum requirement was at least Deity Transformation Tier.

Thinking this, how could Ling Han not be shocked?

There actually appeared so many Level Eight or even Level Nine Spirit Tools, simply floating out with an underground river—damn, even in his last life, there were only seven powerful warriors of Heaven Tier!

Ling Han was instantly interested, and said, "Where is that

underground river?"

"Che, I thought you considered yourself above such worldly matters, but you're still interested, aren't you? Pretending to be mature!" Li Si Chan mumbled.

"Stop blabbering, where is it?" Liu Yu Tong instantly asked in a reprimanding tone, having no fondness for Li Si Chan at all.

"Apologies, master told me to tell Ling Han only!" Li Si Chan countered, not showing any weakness.

"Ha, I am Ling Han's attendant. Whatever you want to tell my master, you must first tell me!" Liu Yu Tong said a bit proudly.

"What!" Li Si Chan was astonished, casting a gaze filled with disbelief at Liu Yu Tong.

Liu Yu Tong was the princess of the Liu Clan! She had so many admirers they could queue up in a line and surround the whole Imperial City a few times, and now she had actually become Ling Han's attendant? But when she thought about it, even her master, Wu Song Lin, addressed Ling Han as Young Master Han, so the princess of the Liu Clan did not seem that much of a VIP when compared with him.

Moreover, just take a look at this girl's expression, she was obviously showing off!

Li Si Chan really felt that she was going to be driven mad by frustration!

Chapter 117: No Loyalty

"All right, we're all friends here, so stop fighting!" Ling Han stepped out as the mediator. He now had a deep interest in that underground river, so of course he would not want these two girls to waste too much time on such pointless matters.

"Who's friends with her!" Both girls said the same words at the same time, and when they realized it, they again exclaimed in unison, "Don't copy what I say!"

"Hahahaha!" Ling Zi Xuan instantly broke out into giggles. Hu Niu began to laugh too, though she did not know just what was so funny. She only wanted to join in the fun.

"Everyone's done eating, right? If everyone's done, then let's go!" Ling Han stood up from his seat.

"No! No!" Hu Niu hurriedly exclaimed in a muffled voice. The little girl had a very strong learning ability, and she was learning more and more new words every single day.

Ling Han considered it for a moment, then said, "Yu Tong, you stay here to take care of these two girls."

Liu Yu Tong quickly shook her head, and said, "I want to help you!" She was in Gushing Spring Tier, so she would be able to help Ling Han.

Ling Han felt a little awkward. This trip would not possibly take just one day, so who should he ask to take care of the two girls? Ling Zi Xuan was still okay, but Hu Niu was practically a man-eating little tiger. No matter whom he asked to take care of her, Ling Han would still worry.

But it was very likely that unforeseen and unexpected dangers would emerge within that ancient historical site, so there was no way he could take these two girls along.

"Then I'll just ask Wu Song Lin to take care of them!" Ling Han

decided after a moment's consideration.

Li Si Chan instantly rolled her eyes. Her master was a Black Grade high level alchemist and was also the Headmaster of the Alchemy Department, and now he had actually been degraded to becoming a babysitter. She didn't know if her master wouldn't actually pass out when he heard this.

Yet Ling Han found this to be a good idea, because Hu Niu was definitely not a well-behaved child. So, in case she made any trouble, with Wu Song Lin's rank, he'd be able to easily smooth things over.

Thus, when Hu Niu had eaten her fill, he brought the two little girls along with Li Si Chan over to Wu Song Lin's place.

This time, Wu Song Lin just so happened to be at home, and when he saw Ling Han, he immediately came out to receive him, as if he was the latter's disciple.

When Ling Han told him of his intention to have the two little girls stay over with him, the old man of course agreed immediately, and in passing, asked Ling Han about some parts of the Major Origin Spirit Replenishing Technique. After all, this cultivation technique was completely one of a kind in the current era, so the old man naturally had a lot of parts that he could not fully understand.

Ling Han lectured him patiently, and also asked a bit about the underground river before leaving with Li Si Chan.

After leaving Wu Song Lin's courtyard, the two of them had not traveled too far when they saw a young man approaching them. He looked to be about twenty-four or twenty-five years old, quite good-looking, but his whole face had an air of a ruffian about it. He had even left the front lapels of his robes open, as if he was afraid that others could not tell he was a delinquent.

Li Si Chan's eyes sharpened, and a displeased expression

immediately appeared on her face. From the looks of it, she recognized this fellow, but he was apparently not someone she enjoyed the company of.

"Si Chan!" The young man also saw Li Si Chan, and pleasure immediately bloomed upon his face. He instantly walked quickly towards them, and looked like he was going to grab onto her hand, leering at her in desire.

Li Si Chan stepped to one side and dodged his attempt. Her brow wrinkled into a frown and she said, "Wu Zhong Yi, be more respectful! Moreover, I've already reminded you many times, you need to address me as aunt!"

"Damn woman!" The young man by the name of Wu Zhong Yi mumbled, and a cold smirk appeared on his face as he said, "Do you intend to forget your debts? Don't forget, if my grandfather had not taken you in as a disciple, you'd have long since had your pants removed and be raped to death!"

"You-" Li Si Chan's face paled in an instant. The young man's words were much too vulgar, causing her petite figure to tremble as she almost spat out blood in her fury.

"Did I speak wrongly?" Wu Zhong Yi gave a humph, "You should have heard rumors about the character of that brat from the He Clan! He doesn't only like to torture beautiful girls, he also likes to do it in public! If it was not for my grandfather protecting you, you'd be played with until there was nothing left!"

And now, you think your wings are fully grown, so you intend to forget your debts?"

As Ling Han listened to this, he quickly understood the inner workings of this issue: this Wu Zhong Yi was the grandson of Wu Song Lin, and had a crush on Li Si Chan, but Li Si Chan did not like him at all.

Ai, sometimes being too beautiful was not a good thing! From

this aspect, Liu Yu Tong was much more fortunate. As the princess of the Liu Clan, who dared to covet her so openly?

"I will of course repay my debt of gratitude to master!" Li Si Chan said through gritted teeth.

"Fine, you repay the debt then!" Wu Zhong Yi said with a perverted grin, "My parents also feel that we are a very good match. Why don't we just marry tomorrow; my parents would definitely be very pleased."

"Hey, hey, hey. You obviously look like a pig, what kind of strange thoughts are you having?" Ling Han took a step forward and placed himself in front of Li Si Chan, "Your name's not good either. Wu Zhong Yi, no loyalty, ai, just from the name itself I can tell you're scum."

"And who are you?" Wu Zhong Yi stared blankly.

"Pa!"

Ling Han's hand rose and fell quickly, giving him a slap. He slowly withdrew his hand, and said calmly, "The thing I dislike the most is people cursing in front of me."

Wu Zhong Yi only felt very aggrieved. Weren't you the one who called me a pig in the first place?

"Oh, I was not cursing you just now, just telling the truth. Tell me which part of you do you think does not resemble a pig?" Ling Han explained. He was still a very polite, well-mannered person.

You're still calling me a pig?

Wu Zhong Yi instantly jumped up and pointing at Ling Han's nose, exclaimed, "How dare you! You not only curse at me, you even dared to hit me?"

"Pa!"

Ling Han once again gave him a slap, causing Wu Zhong Yi to spin around on the same spot for four times before directly falling

down and sitting on the ground. He waved his hand a bit, and said, "I also dislike others pointing at me. Don't you know that this is a very impolite, and a very rude thing to do?"

So hitting people was something very polite and very well-mannered then?

Wu Zhong Yi mocked in his heart, but he dared not speak these words out loud. He crawled to his feet and finally stood, pointing at Li Si Chan, and said, "You ungrateful b****, you actually gang up with an outsider to bully me... I'll show you! One day, you will definitely marry me, and let's see if I won't *****!"

These words caused Li Si Chan's pretty face to become a few shades paler. Even Ling Han could no longer bear to listen to this vulgarity. He picked up a rock from the ground, and slammed it onto Wu Zhong Yi.

"Aiya!" Wu Zhong Yi gave a miserable yell, and fell directly onto the ground, no longer moving.

Li Si Chan's expression quickly changed, and she said, "You didn't kill him, right?" It was true that she did not like this person, but Wu Zhong Yi was Wu Song Lin's only grandson. If he died, then that would mean that the Wu Clan would end in this generation.

"It's all right, I know my own strength. At most, he'd be bedridden for about ten plus days, and have a few problems with his memory. For example, he may not remember things that happened in these few days, or maybe these few months," Ling Han said, not very certain himself.

Li Si Chan rolled her eyes. And this was light for him? But Ling Han had acted because of her, so she was still quite touched.

"Don't bother with him. There's quite a lot of people passing through here, and soon, he'd be discovered!" Ling Han took hold of Li Si Chan's hand and pulled her away. That Wu Zhong Yi was indeed a detestable character, so he would naturally not mind

having the former lie here and rest for a while longer.

Li Si Chan could not resist Ling Han who was stronger than her, so she could only submit herself to being pulled along by him.

"You two-" when they returned to Ling Han's place, Liu Yu Tong saw that the two were walking hand in hand, and a spark of killing intent appeared on her beautiful face.

Chapter 118: Blood-Gushing Mountain

Ling Han laughed, and released Li Si Chan's hand before saying, "Have you finished packing?"

Just now, he and Li Si Chan were in charge of sending the two little girls over, while Liu Yu Tong was in charge of packing their stuff.

"I've finished," Liu Yu Tong said with a nod. The gaze she directed at Li Si Chan was not very friendly, as she pondered whether or not she should secretly kill off the girl in the wilds.

"Then let's go!" Ling Han seemed to be filled with anticipation.

What actually lay underneath the underground river that high-level Spirit Tools would flow out from it?

They went on their way, left the Academy and traveled out of the Imperial City, heading towards the Blood-Gushing Mountain that was about two thousand miles away. The mountain was named thus because every so often, the rivers and streams that surged from the mountain would be dyed red, as if it was blood flowing in the rivers, not water.

Because the journey was quite long, all three of them rented horses. Otherwise, they would have to spend quite a few days merely on the journey itself.

"I am an orphan, and it was only when I was found out to have remarkable talent in alchemy that I gradually left poverty, but it is not entirely a good thing when a woman is born too beautiful. As I grew older, I became the target of desire of more and more people."

On the journey there, Li Si Chan began to reveal her circumstances.

"Unlike Miss Liu, who has a powerful Clan behind her to protect her, I could only try my best to keep a low profile, and hide. However, I may be able to hide for a moment, but could never hide

for my whole life. In the end, I became the target of the Seventh Young Master of the He Clan. But thankfully, I encountered my master at that time and he took me in as a disciple, allowing me to escape from a tragic fate."

This was indeed a very pitiful story, but Liu Yu Tong was extremely displeased, for she was used for comparison.

You just see, how pitiful the other was. Sigh, beautiful women suffer unhappy fates, how easy was it to incur the sympathy of men? And her? From birth, she was the princess of the Liu Clan, enjoying all the luxuries and wealth granted to her identity!

Damn this scheming woman!

During the journey, they would travel by day and take rest at night, and with the company of the two girls, Ling Han did not feel too bored. A journey of about two thousand miles couldn't really be considered too long, and as they managed to travel about eight hundred miles in a single day, three days later, they finally arrived at Blood-Gushing Mountain.

The Blood-Gushing Mountain did not occupy too large an area. From east to west, north to south, it only occupied about a hundred miles square or so. But the mountain was extraordinarily tall and steep, as if it was an arrow shot towards the clouds, going straight up into the sky. If one raised their head to look, no matter how good their sight was, they wouldn't be able to see the top.

The extreme height of the mountain put it in a class of its own.

There was a large amount of greenery on this mountain, and the tall trees covering the mountain could even approach a thousand metres in height, as if they were the titans of the ancient times standing proudly on the mountain. But, strangely enough, there were not many animals here.

Ling Han and the others very quickly arrived at the location of the underground river. It was very easy to find, because Blood-

Gushing Mountain was not too big. The recent earthquake caused the appearance of an underground river, and it could be easily spotted from afar.

The ground cracked, and out appeared an underground river about a hundred feet wide. The river water was extremely clear, and when they got close to it, they could feel a piercing cold.

They followed the river upstream, and after about an hour, a blockade appeared in front of them.

This was a man-made fence created from bamboo. It was only half-completed, and there were people all around it being busy. From the looks of it, they were ordinary villagers. However, when Ling Han and the others went closer, "Xiu," immediately a figure shot out to block their advance.

"Halt, you are not allowed to advance further!" The man shouted. He looked to be in his forties, and was quite tall and sturdy, as if he was an iron tower.

Ling Han scanned over this person, and could already tell the person's cultivation level—ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

"Yi, Seventh Uncle!" Liu Yu Tong quickly stepped out from behind Ling Han and greeted the middle-aged man.

"Yu Tong?" The middle-aged man looked very surprised, "Why have you come here?" The secret of the underground river should only be known to the imperial family, the Eight Great Clans, and a very limited number of extremely powerful elite warriors.

"We are here under command of Headmaster Wu, Wu Song Lin, as his fully endorsed representatives," Ling Han said.

"What!?" The middle-aged man was even more astonished. There were Spirit Tools floating out on this underground river, and it was definitely the biggest treasure trove since the establishing of Rain Country. There would definitely be debates between the various parties in the Imperial City, yet what did Wu Song Lin do?

He actually sent a few juniors over as his representatives, this was really taking things too lightly, wasn't it?

"This is my Master's letter," Li Si Chan took out a letter. Wu Song Lin of course knew that a mere verbal statement was no guarantee, and so had already prepared his token and a letter written by his hand as proof.

The middle-aged man took the latter, but with his status, he did not have the right to open the letter. He only said, "Please come with me."

He led the way while Ling Han and the others followed behind.

"This is my Seventh Uncle. His name is Liu Bu Cheng," Liu Yu Tong introduced.

Ling Han nodded. While a cultivation level of the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier was not something he would take seriously, in the small place that was Rain Country, it was indeed very impressive—just think, Da Yuan City had under its jurisdiction such a large area, yet only the Da Yuan King himself had reached Spiritual Ocean Tier. Thus, the cultivation level of the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier could be declared as an elite warrior wherever he was in Rain Country.

In truth, as long as one managed to break through to Gushing Spring Tier, they'd be considered desirable pillars of support for any party in Rain Country, able to help carry the weight of the party.

When they walked a little further ahead, they saw that there were a few martial artists standing guard on the river bank, their eyes firmly focused on the river's surface, as if there were treasures lying within. Their attention was fully focused on the river's surface, not daring to have the slightest bit of carelessness.

When they walked further ahead, they saw that there was actually a fishing net stretched out in the river, and there were

people standing guard at both sides.

"It's here! It's here!" Someone gasped in astonishment, causing Ling Han and his group to stop walking, and look towards the river.

They saw that a jade bottle was floating downstream. There were multiple damaged spots on the body of the jade bottle, and the intact places sported a few engraved seals. The seals looked very complicated, as if they were depicting the Dao of Heaven and Earth, ancient and mature.

Spirit Tool!

Ling Han's eyes lit up. He had been a powerful warrior of Heaven Tier in his last life, and so of course had his own Spirit Tools. He had even managed to create his own Spirit Tools, so he was definitely more capable than everyone else here in the evaluation of Spirit Tools. When he swept his eyes over it, he could tell that this Spirit Tool was nothing ordinary.

It was at least a Level Eight one!

'Such a Spirit Tool is qualified to develop its own spirit,' he thought.

The jade bottle quickly floated into the fishing net, and as its advance was stopped by the net, it instantly stopped. But a seal on the jade bottle instantly flashed, and 'Pu', a huge hole was torn in the net, and the jade bottle continued to follow the flow of the river, heading further downstream.

Everyone watched as it floated further downstream, and they saw that the several martial artists standing guard a bit further downstream all moved, trying to catch hold of the jade bottle. Yet this time, even more seals on the jade bottle shone, and 'Xiu', it zoomed into the skies, and as if it was a shooting star, it streaked across the sky until it disappeared from sight.

A Spirit Tool... and like that, it was gone.

'So that's the case.'

Ling Han nodded. Setting up fishing nets and various other blockades at a spot furthest upstream to detain the floating Spirit Tools, and finally, having no other choice, attempting to actually use manpower to fish out the Spirit Tools. After all, if they used the fishing net, they would not provoke too big a reaction from the Spirit Tool, but once they directly used their hands to try to catch hold of it, the Spirit Tool would automatically react, and immediately disappear.

It was indeed a Spirit Tool that had its own spirit.

"Until now, no Spirit Tool has been successfully intercepted?"
Ling Han asked Liu Bu Cheng.

Chapter 119: Fishing For Spirit Tools

Liu Bu Cheng cast a glance at Ling Han, a spark of displeasure washing over his face.

A little junior actually dared to ask him questions? Did he have no respect for his seniors? But for the sake of his niece, he did not immediately fly into a rage. Instead, he simply said with a darkened expression, "There were indeed a few that were successfully captured, but they were all the more heavily damaged treasures. The spirits in some of them had already deteriorated, which was why we managed to intercept them."

"May I take a look?" Ling Han asked.

Liu Bu Cheng could finally bear it no longer. How precious and priceless were these spiritual treasures? Even if they were horribly damaged, they were still the most valuable of treasures. The seals engraved on them possessed a very high research value because within them was engraved the martial intent of ultimate warriors of the past. Perhaps there would appear several ultimate elites of Spiritual Infant Tier with help from the research done on these seals, which would lift the overall level of martial arts in Rain Country to another level.

How could a little youngster like yourself be allowed to look at such priceless items? Ah, pei, even he himself did not have the right to!

"Heng, don't daydream!" He rebuked, though his words were not too harsh. For the sake of his niece, he only intended to give this young man a little warning.

"Seventh Uncle!" Liu Yu Tong was a bit anxious, but when she saw no hint of displeasure on Ling Han's face, she felt slightly relieved, and said quickly, "What's wrong with just taking a look? It won't break from just looking!"

Liu Bu Cheng almost spat out blood in his shock. Was this still that extremely talented, extraordinarily clever niece of his? Why did it seem as if there was something wrong with her head that she actually said such strange words?

What did "it won't break from just looking" mean? The Emperor also won't break from just taking a look, but was he someone you can simply meet with as you like?

This was an issue about having the right to or not!

"I cannot make a decision on this matter. It's best we meet with the several officials in charge!" He said. This was the truth. He was merely in the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier. In the Clan, he could be considered above average in terms of power, but was definitely not one of the core people of the clan. Not to mention, it was not just the Liu Clan in this place.

"Why didn't you say so earlier? What are you acting so proud for if you can't make a decision?" Ling Han shook his head.

Damn!

Liu Bu Cheng almost spat out blood again. This young man really remembered his grudges. He had only rebuked him a bit, and the young man had remembered his reprimand and said such harsh words to repay him. He wanted to fly into rage at that moment, but he recalled that though Ling Han was here with Liu Yu Tong, the token he was holding onto belonged to Wu Song Lin. If he made a move, that would mean not giving face to Wu Song Lin.

Truth to be told, he definitely did not have this right. If the Clan found out about this, he would definitely be ordered to offer a humble apology and kneel in front of Wu Song Lin to wait for the latter's judgment.

To pay such a price just to vent a moment's anger, Liu Bu Cheng was not so foolish!

He gave a humph and said nothing more, only continuing to lead

them forwards.

Ling Han broke out into a smile. He would of course not lower himself to Liu Bu Cheng's level. He only intended to play around with him a bit. Who asked Liu Bu Cheng to be so blind?

The four of them did not say anything else. They simply walked quickly, and very soon, a tent appeared in front of their eyes.

"Yi, Liu Seven, why have you brought some youngsters over here?" When a middle-aged man saw them, a strange expression filled with incomprehension appeared on his face. This was an extremely important place; was it a place you could just casually bring people over to?

"They have Grandmaster Wu Song Lin's token and letter, and are his fully endorsed representatives!" Liu Bu Cheng said in irritation.

"What?!" The middle-aged man was shocked. That was Wu Song Lin, a person only below the Rain Emperor in status, and someone who was on equal standing with the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans.

"Anyways, I'm going to bring them to the officers in charge first!" When Liu Bu Cheng saw this man's astonished expression, a feeling of satisfaction rose up in his heart. He had also been so flabbergasted just now, and now that there was someone to share his utter shock, he felt inconceivably pleased.

He brought Ling Han and the others to the biggest tent in the area. This tent was where all of the representatives from the various parties discussed matters, and currently, there were three high-ranking persons here overseeing things.

"What, they are here to represent Grandmaster Wu?" The three high-ranking officials were all dumbstruck. This was a place that involved high-level Spiritual Tools, and Wu Song Lin actually sent three youngsters over to represent him, not to mention that two of them were only in Element Gathering Tier. This was unbelievable

to them.

"Yes, this is my master's token and a letter by his hand," Li Si Chan said.

The three high-ranking officers studied these two items. This was indeed Wu Song Lin's token, and the handwriting on the letter was definitely his as well. Of course, though there was a token and a letter, because this was a very crucial matter, they would still immediately send a message to the Imperial City to confirm things with Wu Song Lin.

"All right, then you can all stay here first. You can participate in fishing for Spirit Tools," one of the high-ranking individuals said.

Fishing for Spirit Tools, why did that sound so strange?

Because there was a limited number of tents available, Ling Han occupied one of his own, but Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan would have to squeeze into one.

Ling Han was here on behalf of Wu Song Lin, so he now had the right to know more information—there were altogether ten different parties here. Aside from the Imperial Family, there were also the Eight Great Clans, as well as Hu Yang Academy.

Of course, of the Hu Yang Academy, only the two Headmasters had the right to take part in this, while the others did not even know something like this had happened.

As for Heaven's Medicine Pavilion, they were excluded from this matter. After all, they were not a local party of Rain Country, but an organization that spread over a considerable number of countries. If this was known to them.... then probably in a short time, the various countries surrounding Rain Country would also send their own elites to snatch the Spiritual Tools.

The crux of the matter was, where did the source of this underground river lie, and why were there so many Spiritual Tools that came floating out on the waters of this underground river?

Could it be.... that it was a trove of Spiritual Tools? Or perhaps, the abandoned site of an ancient sect?

If it was the latter, then aside from Spiritual Tools, there could also possibly be cultivation techniques, alchemical pills, and divine medicines.

Thus, this matter needed the highest level of secrecy.

Why did they not go against the river's flow and enter, heading towards the source of the underground river? That's simple—they could not!

Once they dived into the underground river, they would soon encounter an invisible wall, which stopped them from continuing to advance—this was discovered by several powerful warriors of Spiritual Ocean Tier. Because the danger level was unknown, it was naturally impossible to allow martial artists of Gushing Spring Tier or weaker to take the risk.

In Rain Country, Gushing Spring Tier was the average standard while Spiritual Ocean Tier were the elites; there were really too few martial artists who have managed to break through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier. There were only such martial artists within the Imperial Family, the Eight Great Clans and Hu Yang Academy. As the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion was considered a foreign party, it was not included.

There were pitifully few powerful warriors of Spiritual Pedestal Tier in the various great parties. They were all in seclusion, trying to break through to Flower Blossom Tier in order to surpass the limitations of age, and become the true elite of the elites. Thus, even if there were indeed Spiritual Tools discovered here, the few warriors of Spiritual Pedestal Tier were still not attracted over.

Unless there would appear a proof that there were also high-grade cultivation techniques, divine medicines, or something of the sort here. In that case, the powerful warriors of Spiritual Pedestal Tier would definitely be unable to still remain calm and

nonchalant.

Once Ling Han understood the inner workings of the matter, he went with the two girls to the river bank. They were now also able to use the fishing net to fish for Spiritual Tools, but it was not allowed to directly use their hands—one could do it, but one would have to go to the spot furthest downstream first.

After all, once these Spirit Tools sensed the presence of humans, they would automatically activate and fly off. Thus, this could only be attempted as the last resort.

The situation here was a bit funny. One after another, elites of Gushing Spring Tier and above, as if they were fishermen, stretched out fishing nets, waiting for the Spiritual Tools to float past and enter into their nets, and trying to haul them in.

"Another one's here!" Someone suddenly called out. From upstream, a saber floated on its way downstream.

Chapter 120: Huge Doubt

How could such a heavy saber float so easily on the water's surface?

This was the mystical nature of Spiritual Tools. Some would be as heavy as a mountain, yet some would be lighter than a feather. It all depended on the kind of martial intent engraved in the Spiritual Tool.

At first, Ling Han did not pay too much attention to it. But when his gaze swept over the floating saber and he saw the symbol engraved on the saber's hilt, his expression changed instantly, and his entire body began trembling.

"What is it?" Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both asked at the same time, and when they saw that the other had said the exact same thing, they both gave a humph. Their eyes followed Ling Han's gaze but when they discovered there was a picture of a naked girl carved onto the saber's hilt, they both felt embarrassed, and could not hold themselves back from grumbling.

Men were all indeed lecherous. Even Ling Han was no exception to this.

Ling Han did not answer. He only kept staring at that saber, as if he had seen something incredible on it.

In his last life, he had in total taken four disciples. Two of them learnt the art of alchemy from him, while the other two studied martial arts from him. Of the two that studied martial arts from him, one was named Chen Rui Jing, while the other was named Jiang Yue Feng. Chen Rui Jing was a more serious and mature character, while Jiang Yue Feng was an extremely lively character, and a self-proclaimed romantic.

Jiang Yue Feng had a very weird habit. He liked to carve the picture of a naked girl on his weapons, and his expertise was in

saber techniques.

Was this a weapon that had once been used by Jiang Yue Feng?

Though Ling Han had never seen this saber before, there definitely were not that many people who would carve a naked girl on their saber. Moreover, they'd have to at least be in Deity Transformation Tier, so the possibility of another person was even lower. Ling Han could practically confirm that the original owner of this saber must be his crazy disciple.

Most importantly, Ling Han recognized Jiang Yue Feng's style of drawing, so there could definitely be no mistake.

After ten thousand years, he naturally knew that his four disciples had long died of old age. Thus, he did not think too much about them even after his rebirth. After all, life and death, and age and illness, were all natural ways of the world.

But a weapon that had once been used by his disciple actually floated out on the waters of an underground river, and that was even along with other Spiritual Tools. This caused innumerable suspicions and doubts to arise within Ling Han's mind.

Why?

Why was Jiang Yue Feng's weapon here?

Ling Han's eyes focused on the saber. This saber was indeed very heavily damaged. There were nicks all over the saber's hilt, and the saber's blade was broken. However, because the materials used to forge the saber were indeed excellent, even after ten thousand years, the blade still remained as bright as water, without any signs of rust at all.

Based on what he saw, he could deduce that Jiang Yue Feng must have experienced a huge battle, and even his weapon was broken from it. As for Jiang Yue Feng, a person who loved his weapons as if they were his very life, even if his saber was heavily damaged, he would still retrieve it to be carefully buried. Yet it now actually

appeared floating on the waters of this underground river....

A foreboding feeling suddenly arose in Ling Han's heart.

Could it be that something unexpected had happened to Jiang Yue Feng?

But one has to understand, in his last life, not just him, even his four disciples who had followed him, the greatest alchemist in history, were all pill bottles, advancing through the ranks with the support of alchemical medicines. As a result, their power had risen extremely quickly.

At that time, though Jiang Yue Feng had yet to break through to Heaven Tier, he had already reached Deity Transformation Tier. If he was given another one or two hundred years, it was definitely no issue for him to break through to Heaven Tier.

Moreover, he had altogether four disciples!

If Jiang Yue Feng had encountered a life-and-death calamity, how could it be possible that the other three would just stand by and watch? Could it be that it was a problem that could not be solved even with the combined forces of all four of his disciples?

What had actually happened?

A powerful urge rose suddenly within Ling Han. He wanted to advance to the source of this underground river to see if he could find some clues about what had happened.

"It's mine!"

"It's mine!"

All of them acted immediately. After all, this saber was heavily damaged, so it was likely that the spirit within had already deteriorated. It no longer had visible might, and was easily captured by the fishing net. Thus, everyone began fighting over this saber.

That was a Spiritual Tool. Even if it was a damaged one, it had

extremely high value for research. If they managed to decipher even only one of the martial intent engravings on it, it would definitely allow them to drastically strengthen themselves.

Ling Han's gaze grew cold, and he declared, "This saber is mine!"

All of them were at first stunned, before breaking out into raucous laughter. Is this real? A little brat in Element Gathering Tier actually dared to fight over the saber with elites of Gushing Spring Tier like themselves! But though they laughed, they immediately came to blows. There were no rules in this place. The Spiritual Tool would belong to whoever managed to get their hands on it.

With a long whistle, Ling Han barged into the midst of the ongoing battle.

"How dare you!" Those elites of Gushing Spring Tier raged. A mere martial artist in Element Gathering Tier also dared to fight over the saber with them?

The hierarchy of martial arts was extremely strict, just like the hierarchy of alchemists. When a Yellow Grade low level alchemist met with a Yellow Grade mid level alchemist, the former would have to pay his salutations politely, behaving like a junior. Similarly, Element Gathering Tier martial artists would have to behave like obedient grandsons in front of Gushing Spring Tier martial artists. They didn't even have the right to stand together with the latter, what more to fight with them.

"Get lost!" One of them stretched out a hand in a palm strike towards Ling Han.

Gushing Spring Tier martial artists could give form to their Origin Power, which increased the power of their attacks by multiple folds. Thus, even if he had not used his full power in this attack, this blow was still an extremely terrifying thing for someone of Ling Han's current level.

"Ling Han!" Liu Yu Tong gasped in shock, and quickly leaped forwards, wanting to save Ling Han from this blow. Yet she had just barely moved when Liu Bu Cheng intercepted her and held firm onto her shoulder, stopping her advance by force.

Ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier against the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier, this would doubtlessly be a one-sided battle.

Yet Ling Han only focused on that saber, and with all his might, circulated the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. Using the Exiting Cloud Steps, he was as quick as lightning.

"Hu!"

That elite of Gushing Spring Tier did not think that Ling Han would have such a terrifying burst of speed, and carelessly did not use his full power, which allowed Ling Han to dodge the attack and break through.

The others were all embroiled in a fierce battle with each other, and similarly did not take a little junior of Element Gathering Tier seriously, which allowed Ling Han to take advantage of the gap and advance nearer and nearer to the saber.

"How dare you!" These people were at first stunned, before they all became furious, and all shot out palm strikes towards Ling Han.

This was incredible. They were all high layer Gushing Spring Tier elites, and the weakest among them was already in the seventh layer. Now that they had all attacked Ling Han at the same time, the momentum created was like a landslide and tsunami altogether, extremely terrifying in might.

"Peng," Ling Han was unsurprisingly flung away, but what struck the others speechless was that this guy actually grabbed the saber in passing, and wrapped his arms around it.

"No matter, it's just a little junior. Let us first decide who's the victor among us, then decide who this saber belongs to!" One of the elites of Gushing Spring Tier declared.

"Nonsense, what do you mean by comparing might? How fair is that? Then let me invite an Elder of my Clan to compare might with you, how about that? First come first served, it belongs to whoever hauls it in, this was agreed by everyone! Why is it now that we have to fight over it and the strongest wins? We are all merely in Gushing Spring Tier, even if the ownership of the saber is decided by power, it should not be us fighting!"

"Why not we do it this way then? Let us all draw lots, and it will belong to whoever draws a good lot."

All of them argued loudly, yet did not see Ling Han's body quiver once, and slowly he had sat upright.

All of them had very important backgrounds, thus even though they were engaged in a fierce battle over Spiritual Tools, none of them dared to make a killing move. And it was exactly because of this that Ling Han managed to have a chance to snatch food from the tiger's mouth. But even so, because of so many simultaneous attacks from these elites, quite a number of his bones were broken, and there was also severe damage done to his internal organs, so he was very heavily injured.

Ordinarily, the current him could only be carried off to heal his injuries, and there was no way for him to leave his bed within at least ten plus days.

But there was a drop of Indestructible True Fluid within his body!

Successfully cultivating the Body of Dead Tree allowed him to congeal a single drop of Indestructible True Fluid, and the main purpose of the Indestructible True Fluid was to heal injuries. No matter how severely injured he was, as long as there was a single breath left in him, he could be healed.

This was the true terror of the Indestructible Heaven Scroll.

Chapter 121: Might of the Treasured Saber

Ling Han sent a mental command, and this drop of Indestructible True Fluid instantly dispersed. Like dew, it moistened every single part of his body.

His damaged internal organs, as well as his fractured bones were healing at a terrifying pace.

One has to understand—even with Ling Han's talent, he had still spent ten thousand years' time to comprehend the first level of cultivation techniques of the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. How could this single drop of Indestructible True Fluid that he had managed to congeal not be awesome?

It could practically revive a dead person, and allow new flesh to be grown on bones; it definitely could be claimed as the ultimate treasured medicine.

"Yi?" Someone finally discovered that Ling Han had managed to sit upright, and a shocked expression flashed over his face.

They were all very clear that none of them had made a killing move in the barrage of blows just now, but so many of them had all struck at the same time. Even if none of them made an attempt to kill, it should have been more than enough to cause serious injury to Ling Han—there was nothing to be done about it. Who asked this brat not to know what's good for him? In a way, this also allowed him to learn a valuable lesson.

Yet the brat actually managed to so quickly get up. This was a big enough shock that their eyes were about to pop out from the astonishment!

How could this be?

Could it be that this brat was wearing some kind of treasured armor that could disperse part of the power behind any attacks that hit him? That should be the case. How could there be any

other possibility?

"Brat, hand over the treasured saber. That is not something that you should wield!" A middle-aged man shouted.

Ling Han's eyes suddenly snapped open. The Indestructible True Fluid had completely exercised its effects, allowing him to mostly heal his injuries. He did not answer the speaker, but rather inserted his divine sense into the treasured saber in his hands to activate the Spiritual Tool concealed within the saber.

...He was no idiot. He could heal his injuries once with the help of the Indestructible True Fluid, but there was no way he could heal them a second time. Since he dared to grab food from the tiger's mouth, he would have to resuscitate this treasured saber. That way, what could a few Gushing Spring Tier martial artists do against him?

He was Jiang Yue Feng's master, and the former's martial arts were all taught by him. They were both of the same line of martial arts, so there was a high possibility that he could use the treasured tool left behind by Jiang Yue Feng.

This was a risk, but he could not consider too much about it anymore.

"How dare you ignore me, little junior?" The middle-aged man who had spoken previously instantly grew furious. All of the people here were the heirs of the Imperial Family or the Eight Great Clans, so all of them had extremely high pride. How could they tolerate a junior putting on airs in front of them?

He immediately acted. His Origin Power was given form, becoming a colossal palm which headed towards Ling Han in a grabbing motion.

"Li Yuan, you wish!" Immediately, someone else made a move to stop him. He was of course not trying to help Ling Han, but it was rather that he feared this Li Yuan would take advantage of this

opportunity to grab the treasured saber.

"Bastard!" Li Yuan indeed had that kind of idea, and was enraged by this man's move to stop him. He could not help but immediately come to blows with the person who had attempted to stop him.

"Brat, hand over the treasured saber!" Another person rushed over with the intention to grab the saber.

"It's mine!"

"Mine!"

The battle royale had once again begun. All of them were fighting with each other, trying to get close to Ling Han. Capturing this brat would mean they would be able to obtain the treasured saber. As for Ling Han's own power, they had all automatically ignored any threat he could pose to them. He was after all only a brat in the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier.

"You all, have you had enough!" Ling Han suddenly stood. His eyes cast over the group, holding a gaze that trembled with power.

All of them experienced a shock. It was as if the young man standing in front of them was not a little martial artist of Element Gathering Tier, but an ultimate warrior even stronger than the Elders of their respective Clans. They all felt indescribably weak and minuscule in front of Ling Han.

But they immediately came back to themselves. Just a little brat, and he actually gave them such a feeling?

This was really much too shameful!

"Hand over the treasured saber quickly!" Li Yuan once again moved, making a grabbing motion towards Ling Han.

"Get lost!" Ling Han waved the saber in a slash. "Shua," a bright flash washed out from the saber, as bright as a shooting star.

"Pu!"

Li Yuan suddenly stumbled backwards, one hand pressing down

on his chest. Fresh blood gushed forth from between his fingers, and his face had instantly turned pale.

What!

All of the others were flabbergasted with shock. One has to know that Li Yuan was in the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, yet he was actually injured with one wave of Ling Han's saber. How could they accept this reality?

The treasured saber, it must be the might of the treasured saber!

It was nothing new for them to have obtained damaged Spiritual Tools, after all it was as if all of them were dead. The value of them lay only in the martial intent engraved in the seals upon the body of these Spiritual Tools. But Ling Han had barely just obtained this treasured saber, yet he could actually activate the might of the treasured saber. How inconceivable was that?

Ling Han stood, wielding the saber in his hands, and asked, "Just now, you all really had fun ganging up on me, huh?"

"Hiss," all of them could not help but take a step back. Who would have thought that a little junior in the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier would suddenly possess the ability to pose a threat to high level martial artists of Gushing Spring Tier?

There was no way that Ling Han would stay nice. He pounced, and the treasured saber in his hand continuously spat out flashes of light. The might of the treasured saber was not something that mere Gushing Spring Tier martial artists could stand steadfast against. As the light from the treasured saber washed over them, without an exception, all of them were flung backwards from the power behind the blows.

"How could this be? This brat actually managed to resuscitate the Spiritual Tool!"

"I don't believe it! All Spiritual Tools that can be successfully captured had their spirits deteriorated. Not even powerful

warriors of Spiritual Ocean Tier would be able to activate their abilities, yet how could it be that a little brat of Element Gathering Tier actually managed to activate the might of the Spiritual Tool!"

Everyone were gasping in astonishment, stuck in a state of absolute disbelief.

But so what if they did not believe it? Now, they could only suffer a harsh thrashing from Ling Han's hands.

"Aaaaaahhh!" They all shouted and screamed. Just now, Ling Han had suffered severe injuries from their hands, and now the tables were turned, so how could it be that he would be merciful towards them? As the light from the saber danced, all these people were easily thrashed.

As for Liu Bu Cheng, his face continued to twitch uncontrollably. Thank goodness he had acted to stop Liu Yu Tong, and so did not take part in the ganging up on Ling Han. Otherwise, he would not have been missed out in this thrashing.

To be thrashed in this manner by a little junior, how humiliating!

But was this brat a monster? Why was it that he could activate an ancient Spiritual Tool?

After Ling Han had heavily thrashed Li Yuan and the others, he stared at Liu Bu Cheng for a moment. This stare from Ling Han caused coldness to rise within the latter's heart, and Ling Han finally lowered the saber's hilt, sighing secretly. This saber was much too heavily damaged, and the spirit within was already long dead. The only thing left behind was a tiny scrap of consciousness. Because his martial intent was in the same vein as Jiang Yue Feng's, he managed to activate this scrap of consciousness, but he would not be able to use it many more times before even this tiny scrap of consciousness would completely deteriorate.

By that time, aside from being a bit sharper, there would be no difference between this saber and other normal weapons.

"Ling Han, you, are you all right?" Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both stepped forward at the same time.

'How could this brat not be all right? Can't you two see that the others are all heavily thrashed?' Liu Bu Cheng mocked in his thoughts.

Ling Han was filled with troubled thoughts, so he only nodded towards these two girls before taking the saber and returning to his own tent.

Though he had injured a lot of people, it was absolutely normal for injuries and fights to result from fighting over treasures. Moreover, with Wu Song Lin's support and having to give face to Wu Song Lin, who would dare say anything?

Moreover, a large group of Gushing Spring Tier martial artists actually lost against a young man in the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier, how could they actually lower their pride to say that they would attempt revenge or something of the sort?

Ling Han sat within his tent, and placed the saber on his lap, studying it closely.

If the spirit within had not died, based on his current power, there was no way he could manage to control this saber. The saber would only need to emanate a little bit of aura, and he would be killed off. But now, this actually gave him the chance to study it closely.

Jiang Yue Feng had broken through to Heaven Tier.

Ling Han first confirmed this fact, because the martial intent engraved in the seals on the saber had reached the level that was equal to his own level in his last life. Thus, it was without question that this was a Spiritual Tool that Jiang Yue Feng had forged after he had broken through to Heaven Tier.

But a weapon of an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier was actually heavily damaged in battle, and even the spirit within this Spiritual

Tool was dead.

What kind of enemy did Jiang Yue Feng actually encounter?

Chapter 122: Light of God

Moreover, Jiang Yue Feng's talent was the lowest among all his disciples. Since even he had managed to break through to Heaven Tier, his other three disciples would all have definitely broken through too! If the four of them joined forces, Ling Han could think of no one that could defeat them.

Yet Jiang Yue Feng's weapon was actually so completely broken from what looked to be a huge battle, and came floating out on the waters of an underground river with other Spiritual Tools.

Could there have been a battle royale among the ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier?

Ling Han lightly knocked on the saber's blade. He had already decided that no matter what, he would have to go to the source of the underground river to take a look.

However, he managed to activate the Spiritual Tool and had even defeated a large group of Gushing Spring Tier elites. This naturally engendered the interest and attention of the higher ranks, so he was invited over that night, apparently to study the secrets behind the Spiritual Tools together.

Ling Han did not refuse. He too wanted to take a look at the other Spiritual Tools.

As a result, on this night, a total of eleven Spiritual Tools were placed on a table in front of him. All of them looked heavily worn out, as if they were damaged. If it was not said, who would believe that the things lying on this table were all immeasurably valuable?

"Young Friend Ling, how did you manage to resuscitate the Spiritual Tool?" A Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior from the Zhao Clan asked. His name was Zhao Wu Xue, and in his younger days, his nickname was Nobleman Wu Xue. His reputation as a romantic had once spread through the entire Imperial City, but

unfortunately, he was already in his twilight years now, so the charm and grace of his youth were long gone.

This old man was already in the ninth layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier, and had been stuck for many years. Even if he managed to advance and break through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier, he would not have too many years to enjoy his new position. After all, anyone who did not manage to break through to Flower Blossom Tier were all mortals; the only difference was whether they were weaker or stronger mortals.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "I don't know either. I had only grabbed the Spiritual Tool, and somehow, naturally gotten the acknowledgement of the Spiritual Tool."

The seven old men who were seated all showed expressions of disbelief. However, because Ling Han represented Wu Song Lin, no matter how displeased they were, they dared not show it too openly.

Zhao Wu Xue smiled, and said, "Then that is really a coincidence. Somehow, Young Friend Ling is the one who encountered this kind of coincidence."

"That's right, I never imagined that something so coincidental would happen either," Ling Han laughed as he took up one of the Spiritual Tools from the table and studied it closely.

The seven old men did not stop him. They were all observing every move that Ling Han made. Perhaps the key to activating these Spiritual Tools was some kind of special movement, so they naturally would not miss out on any single movement from Ling Han.

But they were destined to be disappointed, because this time, Ling Han was really just studying these Spiritual Tools.

All of these Spiritual Tools were heavily damaged, and the spirits of some of them had completely deteriorated. Moreover, the

martial intent engraved in the seals on these Spiritual Tools were completely of a different vein than Ling Han's own, so to him, all these Spiritual Tools were the same as mere trash.

Of course, the martial intent engraved in the seals on these Spiritual Tools still possessed a high value for research, because Ling Han could confirm that these were all Level Nine Spiritual Tools, forged by the powerful warriors of Heaven Tier!

He rubbed his chin, and slipped into pensive thought.

In that generation of his, there were merely seven powerful warriors of Heaven Tier. Even if his four disciples very quickly made their way up into the ranks of Heaven Tier, after he "died", there would have been only ten Heaven Tier warriors.

Yet just here, there were already eleven Spiritual Tools.

Ling Han had seen it very clearly. The martial intents engraved within these eleven Spiritual Tools were all different. In other words, they were forged by eleven Heaven Tier warriors.

Moreover, these Spiritual Tools were only those that had been successfully "fished". An even larger number of Spiritual Tools had not yet had their spirits deteriorated, and had long escaped capture.

Going by these calculations, exactly how many powerful warriors of Heaven Tier had there been?

One hundred? One thousand?

How could there have been so many!

Ling Han did not understand. Could it be that after he had "died", a golden age came to the field of martial arts, allowing Heaven Tier warriors to rise up one after another? If that was not the case, how else could this be explained?

He closely studied the other ten Spiritual Tools. The martial intents engraved on them were all very unfamiliar, and definitely

did not belong to the other six rulers that had been his equals.

It looks like unless he headed to the source of the underground river, there was no way for him to get more information.

Ling Han shook his head, and placed the Spiritual Tool back down on the table. He asked, "Everyone, have you managed to think of some way to break through the invisible blockade to advance to the source of the underground river?"

Hearing him address them as "everyone", Zhao Wu Xue and the others all revealed expressions of displeasure. The hierarchy of martial arts was extremely strict, and a little martial artist of Element Gathering Tier actually dared act so casually in front of them? Yet the latter represented Wu Song Lin, and Wu Song Lin was in Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and so was much stronger than them. Going by this calculation, Wu Song Lin's representative indeed had the right to be their equal.

They all felt aggrieved, and started to grumble about Wu Song Lin. Why had he sent such a representative over? Wasn't this a deliberate insult to them?

"There is no way to break through that blockade. Most likely, even Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors would be helpless against it, unless... unless that person is willing to come!" Zhao Wu Xue shook his head, but when he said the last few words, his eyes fell upon an old man.

This was a man of the Imperial Qi Family, and his name was Qi Jiu Shan.

The other five Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors all nodded. "That person" was of course the mysterious Flower Blossom Tier warrior of the Qi Clan. In their eyes, Flower Blossom Tier was the strongest level in this world, able to do the impossible.

Yet Ling Han could not agree with this opinion. Flower Blossom Tier had indeed left the bounds of mortality, and possessed

unbelievable power—for example, possessing a lifespan of up to three hundred years, or for another example, being able to soar through the skies!

However, the Spiritual Tools here were all as high as Level Nine, and what could a Level Six Flower Blossom Tier martial artist do against Level Nine Spiritual Tools? At that time, it was even likely that ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier had died in battle, and had their Spiritual Tools broken, so how could it be that the invisible wall could be dispersed by Flower Blossom Tier martial artists?

He did not point this out, because this was too universally shocking a thing to mention. It would be best for him to maintain a low profile.

"Tomorrow, I would like to go take a look," he said.

Immediately, there were objections, yet even more nodded in agreement.

"Young Friend, please do. You are representing Grandmaster Wu, so do have this right," Qi Jiu Shan said with a smile.

'Damn, what a fake smile!' Ling Han thought secretly. He knew that these seven people were still suspicious of him, wanting to see if he had some kind of special method to disperse the blockade. He did not expose their thoughts and simply nodded before taking the treasured saber and leaving.

On the next day, he, together with Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan, followed the river's course upstream.

He had originally intended to advance on his own, but could not win against the pleas of the two girls, so he could only bring them along. Behind them followed Zhao Wu Xue and the others, altogether fourteen Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists—including a few who had not participated in their discussion the night before. Today, they had all come.

The source of this underground river was the foot of the

mountain, and there was no way to advance further. They could only dive into the water in order to advance further.

There are no martial artists who do not know how to swim, so they all went into the water. They had not advanced much before everything in front of them turned dark. If they advanced a bit more, they wouldn't even see the fingers of their own hands anymore. They could only feel the bone-piercing cold of the river's waters.

Thankfully, there was air circulating in the underground river. Otherwise, no matter how much better they were at holding their breaths than normal people, they would not be able to swim too far.

After at least an hour, there actually appeared a spark of light flickering in front of them.

At first, Ling Han thought that they had finally come out of the mountain, and the exit was in front of them, but very quickly, he realized something was not right. It was actually a seal made up of rays of light, as if a fishing net was stretched out in front of them, stopping them from advancing further.

"Yi, this is.... Light of God!"

Chapter 123: Attaining Private Ends by Abusing Your Position

In his last life, Ling Han had once ventured into quite a number of ancient historical sites, and in some of them, there was this Light of God.

Shattering Void Tier lay above Heaven Tier, and it was rumored that those who managed to cultivate Shattering Void Tier to completion had the ability to shatter the void and truly transform into gods. Thus, the restrictions laid down by ultimate warriors of Shattering Void Tier were also known as Light of God.

In his last life, because of his search for ways to break through to Shattering Void Tier, Ling Han had practically scoured through all the ancient historical sites he could find. As a result, he had seen this Light of God many times.

A large part of the rumors.... could not be relied on.

According to his deductions, Light of God should not have been set up by Shattering Void Tier warriors, but rather the remaining divine light that emanated from the remains of these warriors after their deaths.

When he thought this, Ling Han could not help his thoughts taking a sudden turn. Could it be that a powerful warrior of Shattering Void Tier had risen at that time, and for some reason, became the target of Jiang Yue Feng and the others' ganging up on him? Should an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier display his might, then it would not be strange for so many Heaven Tier warriors to die in battle against such an opponent.

Of course, there was another possibility, and that was that a lot of Heaven Tier warriors had discovered the tomb of an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier. In order to fight over the relics and treasures left behind by this Shattering Void Tier warrior,

they were embroiled in a grand battle royale. The result was uncountable injuries and deaths, and the breakage of their Spiritual Tools.

With this comparison in mind, Ling Han was more willing to believe that it was the former possibility.

"Young Friend, is there any way to break this restriction?" Zhao Wu Xue asked.

"There is!" Ling Han nodded. If it was any other restriction, he would indeed have no idea, but it was the Light of God. In his last life, he had broken this restriction who knows how many times. This had nothing to do with cultivation level. What was needed were the necessary ingredients.

"What?!" Zhao Wu Xue and the others gasped in unison. Zhao Wu Xue had simply asked in passing, and had not placed any hopes that Ling Han would be able to break the restriction. He had never imagined that Ling Han would give him such an unexpected answer.

"Is that true?" Hearing Ling Han's answer, it rather caused a considerable amount of doubt to arise in the others. After all, Ling Han was only in Element Gathering Tier, so he was really much too weak in their eyes.

"You can choose not to believe me, but if you want me to break this.... seal, I need a few ingredients. If you can get me these ingredients, then I will immediately be able to break this seal," Ling Han declared.

"Please tell us, Young Friend, what ingredient do you require?" Zhao Wu Xue asked.

Ling Han opened his mouth and recited the names of a colossal amount of ingredients. The names of these ingredients caused the faces of Zhao Wu Xue and the others to turn green, and some of them even looked like they were about to spit out fire.

...This was practically asking them to spend their entire family fortunes!

"Whenever you can gather all these ingredients, then I'll be able to unseal this barrier. If you have yet to gather these ingredients, then please do not come to disturb me!" Ling Han flung out these words, and brought the two girls ahead to go back the way they had come, leaving behind these ten plus old men to exchange looks of indecision.

"Do you all think that the words of this brat could be believed?" Zhao Wu Xue asked, breaking the tension.

"Since he is Grandmaster Wu's representative, then he should not have been speaking without thinking."

"But this brat is only sixteen or seventeen years old. Does he really have such ability?"

"It may be true that he is indeed an exceptional genius. He would not have been able to become Grandmaster Wu's representative otherwise."

"All of you need not trouble yourselves with these worries. This brat requires so many extremely valuable ingredients. It is already not something that can be decided by us. We had best immediately send a messenger bird back to the Imperial City to inform our respective Clan Elders."

"That's true!"

They all nodded in agreement, and when they went back, all of them immediately sent off messenger birds to contact the Imperial City.

Messenger birds were actually a kind of demonic beasts that, after being trained, could be used as messengers. They were extremely fast in flight, and could travel a few thousand miles in a single day. Thus, on the next day, they all received a reply, telling them to agree to Ling Han's request, and that all of the Clans would

send out Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors to personally deliver the ingredients over.

After all, these ingredients were really much too valuable. Probably, even half of the national treasury would be emptied due to such expense.

A mere four days later, a few high-ranking persons of Spiritual Pedestal Tier had arrived, together with the ingredients that Ling Han had asked for.

"Little fellow, you're so young, but you know quite a lot!" A kind, gentle-looking old man entered into Ling Han's tent and smiled at him very serenely, as if he was looking at his own grandson.

Yet Liu Yu Tong showed an expression of fear. This old man was the Elder of the Li Clan, and his name was Li Zang Ye, an authentic Spiritual Pedestal Tier warrior. But don't take his kind and gentle expression at face value. In truth, this old man was a vicious and merciless character, possessing a great reputation in the Imperial City from the numbers that had died in his hands. In his youth, who knows how much blood had stained his hands.

Now he was much older, and had put most of his time into trying to break through to Flower Blossom Tier, which allowed his bloody reputation to diminish. Only the people of the older generation now knew of this god of death.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "I like to learn a lot of different things, so I have a bit of knowledge about a lot of different areas."

Light of God was not something that could be broken through brute force. Even ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier could do nothing against it. As a result, Ling Han had tried a lot of methods before finally coming up with a technique that could allow him to open a "door" in the Light of God.

"Hehe, it really is good to be young and have a lot of time on your hands. You can learn anything you like, unlike me. I already have

half a foot in the coffin, and when I close my eyes to sleep tonight, I don't even know if I will be able to open them tomorrow morning," Li Zang Ye said with a laugh. However, his laughter was a bit frightening to hear, causing goosebumps to rise on the skin of Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan.

Ling Han did not mind in the slightest. He had once been an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier in his last life, so would he be frightened by a Spiritual Pedestal Tier martial artist? That has to be a joke.

"Please return, Elder. I need to do some preparations, and after about a day, I will be done and ready to break that barrier," Ling Han said.

Li Zang Ye could not help be surprised. This brat actually dared to chase him off? However, he now had something to request of the latter, so he did not dare to refuse. He could only make a move and leave the tent.

"Hu, the old ghost is finally gone!" Ling Han breathed out a breath of relief, and quickly picked out a few valuable medicinal ingredients from the large amount of ingredients, and began to concoct alchemical pills in the first instant.

This!

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were shocked to numbness when they saw this. It seems like Ling Han had attained his own ends by abusing his position, and had named a lot of unnecessary ingredients to concoct alchemical pills for his own use.

To actually dare to scam the Imperial Family of Rain Country and the Eight Great Clans, Ling Han has got to be the only one.

That was natural. To ask him, the Alchemy Emperor, to do something for them, how could they not offer something equal in value to their request as payment?

Ling Han was at full power, and did not rest for the whole day

and night, continuing to concoct a large number of alchemical pills. When it was dawn the next day, he snickered, and threw a pill bottle over to Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan respectively, and said, "This is your share of benefits and the payment for you keeping quiet."

In the previous day, the two girls had both become his assistants, doing chores like separating the various medicinal ingredients. Otherwise, Ling Han would really not have been able to complete this large number of pills.

"Four Transformations Pill! Ancient Clear Pill!" Li Si Chan's beautiful eyes swept over the pill bottles, and instantly gasped out in surprise. There was a clear expression of astonishment on her pretty face, "There actually exists someone who can concoct these pills in this world!"

"What Four Transformations Pill, Ancient Clear Pill?" Liu Yu Tong did not know much about the field of alchemy, so her face was filled with confusion.

"They are all Spiritual Medicines that can help raise one's cultivation level, and their effects are ten times better than similar pills that are available now. But the Four Transformations Pill is to be used by Gushing Spring Tier, while the Ancient Clear Pill should be used in Element Gathering Tier," Li Si Chan explained.

This time, Liu Yu Tong's expression had changed completely. Ten times the effects, what kind of concept was that? She would be able to reach the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier within a year's time, and begin breaking through to Spiritual Ocean Tier!

When she just thought that she would be only twenty years old and yet reach Spiritual Ocean Tier, she was almost ready to pass out.

Ling Han laughed. The alchemical pills concocted by others indeed had ten times the normal effects, but the pills he concocted would at least be worth thirteen Stars, and have at least thirty

percent additional effects in addition to the ten times. But he would not be mentioning that lest he scared these two girls to death.

Chapter 124: Breaking the Seal

Doing good without hoping for rewards wasn't the least bit in line with Ling Han's personality. Since they wanted him to open up the Light of God, then how could he not take advantage of this chance to get some benefits of his own?

Putting it in a different way... asking an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier to do something for them while offering this little bit of payment, it was already nice of him to agree.

"Let's go. We can't have them wait too long. It would be impolite," he said.

The two girls instantly rolled their eyes at him. The truth of the matter was that he had spent the whole day and night concocting alchemical medicines rather than doing any kind of preparations. He was obviously the one to have them wait pointlessly for a whole day, and he actually dared to say that. He really was shameless.

The three of them left their tent. Those old monsters of Spiritual Pedestal Tier had all waited for a long time, but old monsters would be old monsters. There was absolutely no hint of impatience on their faces. On the other hand, they were actually all smiles.

'All of them are really old foxes, scheming, astute, and wily!' Ling Han mocked in his thoughts as he opened his mouth and said, "I've caused all you Seniors to wait for too long. Many apologies."

"Young Friend, you've worked hard!" Those old monsters of Spiritual Pedestal Tier all said with a smile.

"Then let's set out." Ling Han quickly went into the main topic. He had already gotten the benefits he wanted, and he too wanted to quickly reach the source of the underground river to see what had actually happened there.

All of the old monsters were a bit surprised, for Ling Han was behaving much too calmly.

They were all in Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and were the strongest people in the whole Rain Country. Should anyone of them simply stomp their foot, they could easily cause the mountains and rivers to change. And now, they were all gathered in one place, yet Ling Han did not even blink at their presence. How could they not be curious about the reason behind his calmness?

...Yet they did not know something—compared to Ling Han's power in his last life, what could mere Spiritual Pedestal Tier count as? Pei, they wouldn't even be qualified to guard his door!

The group once again returned to the spot they had stopped at before, and the Light of God was once again right in front of them.

Ling Han began to arrange the ingredients. One after another, the ingredients were smoothly arranged by his hands, becoming a blur in the eyes of the others. Yet, there was a beauty in his movements that caused the others to uncontrollably become engrossed in watching him.

"Yi, I actually seem to feel a kind of rhythmic beauty from this brat's movements."

"So you also feel that way?"

"This brat is really quite strange, as if every move he makes corresponds with the Dao of nature. How could there be such a person?"

"Could it be....? It is written in the ancient records that there is a kind of person that is born suited to Dao. For such a person, comprehending the secrets of martial arts is as easy as drinking water."

"...Natural Martial Body!"

The eyes of all the old monsters lit up. If Ling Han was really a Natural Martial Body, then he was definitely a valuable treasure. As long as one observed his movements every single day, they'd be able to very quickly gain comprehension of martial arts. Ling Han

could absolutely be considered as a living spiritual treasure of martial arts.

This brat has gotten the acknowledgement of Wu Song Lin, so they couldn't really kidnap him by force. But, what about... marriage!

As long as they managed to get him to marry into their Clan, then it would be perfectly legitimate for him to stay in their Clan Residence, and even Wu Song Lin would be unable to say anything against that.

Ling Han had completely no idea that he had become something that everyone would be fighting over in that instant. He had his full concentration on the ingredients in his hands, and as he flung out one after another, he actually opened up a hole in the Light of God, creating an opening that could allow a single person to pass through.

"He really succeeded!" The old monsters were all struck dumb with shock. They had all made their own attempts these few days, but the might of the Light of God was not something they could overcome. All they could do was simply stare at it blankly. They had never thought that Ling Han would actually succeed.

This naturally increased their desires to have him marry into their Clans.

One of the old monsters was an impatient character, and was about to immediately pass through the opening, yet Ling Han stretched out an arm to stop him from going ahead and said, "Wait!"

"Brat, what are you trying to do?" This old monster was a powerful warrior of Spiritual Pedestal Tier of the Qian Clan of the Eight Great Clans. He had an impatient nature and was also bad-tempered. He immediately glared at Ling Han, and a strong pressure immediately emanated from him.

Ling Han smiled calmly, withdrew his arm and said, "If you want to die, I won't stop you. Please go right ahead!"

Hearing Ling Han's words, the old monster from the Qian Clan did not dare to make any reckless moves and asked, "Isn't the restriction already broken?"

"This can only be claimed to be a minor success. The current opening can allow an ordinary person to enter, but Body Refining Tier would experience rejection from the restriction. The stronger your ability, the more powerful the rejection you would feel. If you try to force your way through, that would be equivalent to seeking your own death," Ling Han said.

So that was it.

"Stupid brat, why didn't you speak early of such a big issue? You almost killed me!" The old monster from the Qian Clan said sheepishly, obviously a bit embarrassed.

Ling Han smiled and said, "Do you not see that I have many ingredients that I haven't used yet? Wouldn't this be embezzlement on my part?"

The old monsters all laughed loudly while Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan kept mocking in their thoughts—this guy was so outrageously bold. He had already embezzled a lot!

Ling Han continued to move and threw out various ingredients, allowing the opening to become firmer and sturdier.

"Now, Body Refining Tier should be able to enter."

"En, now Element Gathering Tier should be able to as well."

"Gushing Spring Tier."

Ling Han suddenly came to a stop, because the ingredients had all been used up. He gave a sigh and said, "My ability is limited, so I can only create an opening that would allow only Gushing Spring Tier martial artists to enter at most!"

The others all stared blankly. The strongest martial artists that could enter was Gushing Spring Tier. Was this deliberate?

That's right. This was something that Ling Han had done deliberately. Originally, he had intended to have this opening limited to allowing only Element Gathering Tier to enter, but he thought that this would be too obvious, so he decided to raise the entry level to the next tier.

But on the other hand, Rain Country had limited resources on hand, so even if he had not had his own intentions, the opening that he could create would at most only allow Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists to enter.

"Only Gushing Spring Tier!" The old monsters all frowned.

"What about this? Let us immediately send a message back to the Imperial City and have the Gushing Spring Tier martial artists of our Clans all come over immediately," someone suggested. Behind this opening possibly lay hidden a great secret treasure. Who would not want to get their hands on this treasure?

"These few days, we'll seal off this place first, and allow no one to pass through!" Li Zang Ye said.

"We should do that!"

All of them were worried that someone else would enter first and snatch away some fated opportunity that could be hidden behind the opening, so they all agreed to first seal off this place and wait for the various geniuses of Gushing Spring Tier of their respective Clans to arrive, after which all of them would enter at the same time.

"Little fellow, you have no objection, right?" Li Zang Ye said with a cunning smile.

"Of course not!" Ling Han said with a smile, "However, you all would need to make the most of your time. This opening can at most be maintained for ten days only."

'Damn,' the old monsters all rolled their eyes at this. Then why didn't you say this sooner? That way, they'd have been able to gather the geniuses of their Clans early on to come over. But now, everything was in a rush, so they weren't sure how many they could actually gather.

All of them once again left, and naturally, one after another, messenger birds flew off, sending the message back to the Imperial City.

Ling Han sat in his tent, quietly cultivating. He had practically robbed the Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family in one go this time, and had managed to concoct various valuable alchemical pills, which would be enough for him to enjoy quite a while without worrying about money.

'Robbery is really fun!' He thought as he swallowed an alchemical pill.

Four days passed very quickly, and continuously, there would be arrivals of various young men and women. These were all the younger generation of the Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family. They were either Gushing Spring Tier or, at the very least, Element Gathering Tier. Obviously, the old monsters suspected that there lay a secret treasure behind the restriction, and hoped that the youths of their own Clans would be able to get this secret treasure. Thus, they naturally sent as many people as they could.

On the seventh day, there were about two hundred people of the younger generation of the various Clans that had made it there. The old monsters also felt that they could no longer delay it, because there was only three days' time left for them.

Set out!

Chapter 125: Four Seasons Sword Technique

Within these few days, Ling Han and the two girls also achieved their own breakthroughs.

Liu Yu Tong had accumulated energy for a long time, plus she also had the Three Yin Vanishing Veins which, together with the Three Yin Mysterious Arts, allowed her to maintain an overwhelmingly rapid cultivation pace. Moreover, she also had in her hands the Four Transformations Pill, so naturally her cultivation speed was even faster than before.

Most importantly, the Four Transformations Pill would help her break through to the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier!

For most people, the barrier between cultivation levels was the hardest to pass. As long as you were willing to put in real effort—or had enough alchemical pills to support your cultivation—you would be able to smoothly cultivate from the early period of any layer all the way to the peak period.

But to successfully break through, that was another problem. Even if it was only from the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier to the second, this one step forward was extremely difficult to take.

Why were there so few Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors in Rain Country? That was simple, they did not have enough comprehension of their cultivation levels, and were all stuck in Spiritual Ocean Tier! And below Spiritual Ocean Tier, there was also a large number of people who were stuck in Gushing Spring Tier and Element Gathering Tier.

The Four Transformations Pill could help a martial artist gain the comprehension of his cultivation level. If this spread out, it would be a hair-raising shock to anyone who found out.

Liu Yu Tong was intelligent in the first place, plus she had already been at the peak period of the first layer of Gushing Spring

Tier—now that she had the aid of the Four Transformations Pill, after a few days trying to break through, everything naturally went smoothly and she advanced to the next level.

She did not continue to raise her cultivation level. Instead, she put effort into strengthening her foundation. After all, she managed to reach her cultivation level with the help of medicine, so if she was too greedy and continued to advance, it would lead to her foundation being unstable. In the future, this would mean that she would be unable to reach a higher cultivation level.

Ling Han also taught her the Four Seasons Sword Technique, which was a Black Grade high level martial arts technique. Chances were high that not even the Liu Clan had this kind of martial arts technique. Perhaps only the Imperial Family owned such a high-level martial arts technique.

Thus, Liu Yu Tong had broken through the day before yesterday. After breaking through, she had spent the last two days studying the secrets of the Four Seasons Sword Technique, and if there was anything she didn't understand, she would ask Ling Han. As a result, her power rose at an extremely quick pace.

A Gushing Spring Tier elite actually asked for guidance about martial arts technique from an Element Gathering Tier martial artist. This seemed to be a preposterous thing, yet Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both felt that this was very natural and there was nothing strange about it.

...Ling Han was too much of a monster. Had he been now able to use Heaven Grade martial arts techniques, most likely, the two girls would have only given an "ah", and then accept reality.

Li Si Chan also managed to advance from the third layer of Element Gathering Tier to the fourth layer. Most alchemists were pill bottles, depending on alchemical pills to forcibly raise their cultivation levels, so naturally her body was highly immune to medicinal effects. Thankfully, her cultivation level was still low, so

this immunity to medicines was not too strong, thus she also managed to advance to the next layer.

Meanwhile, Ling Han broke through to the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier, and while his cultivation level was very low, his battle prowess was an extremely terrifying thing.

...Five Elements Origin Nuclei, six flashes of Sword Qi, Indestructible Heaven Scroll, Body of Dead Tree—all these added together would be enough to raise his attack power to fifteen Stars, while his defenses were even stronger. It would not be wrong to claim his defenses reached the level of twenty Stars.

"It's still not enough!" Ling Han shook his head. Only once he stepped into Gushing Spring Tier would he be able to use Black Grade high level martial arts techniques—the power upgrade from Black Grade martial arts techniques was not something that Yellow Grade martial arts techniques could compare to. He was sitting on a mountain of treasures, yet he could only sigh. This feeling really displeased him.

Liu Yu Tong only rolled her eyes at him. This guy was only in the second layer of Body Refining Tier just over half a year ago, yet he had already broken through to the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier now, and he still thought that it was too slow. What about other normal martial artists then?

They left their tents to meet with the others.

"Yi, Yu Tong, so you've already arrived!" When a young man saw Liu Yu Tong, he immediately approached them. This man was Hu Bo.

"Watch my sword!" When Liu Yu Tong saw him, she did not say anything else, but simply drew her sword and attacked him.

That day, Hu Bo, in order to find her, went over to the Ling Clan Residence and made a huge commotion, killing and injuring a considerable number of people, which caused her to feel extremely

guilty. Now that she had seen him, it was as if she had seen a mortal enemy. How could she hold herself back anymore? Naturally, from the first instant she saw him, she immediately began attacking him.

"What?!" When Liu Yu Tong attacked him, Hu Bo's expression immediately changed.

Second layer of Gushing Spring Tier, she had actually reached the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier!

Previously, when he had seen Liu Yu Tong in Gray Cloud Town, she had just broken through to Gushing Spring Tier, and now it was only half a month later and she had already reached the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier. The word genius was no longer enough to describe her, right?

She was like him who had also gotten the full support of his Clan to develop his talent, but he was still in the peak period of the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier. It would at least be another month before he would be able to break through, and his progress was already very much praised by his Clan, and he was claimed to be an exceptional genius!

Yet when compared to Liu Yu Tong, he was an absolute idiot!

Being under the fierce attacks of an elite of the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier, how could Hu Bo dare to hesitate any further? He quickly drew his own sword. If he had any slightest bit of reservations at this moment, he was likely to be defeated.

...If he were defeated by a woman he was pursuing, how would he still have the face to see Liu Yu Tong in the future?

"Ding, ding, ding, ding." The two long swords continued to clash with each other, creating fierce sparks of fire from the friction.

Ordinarily, the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier against the first layer would be a completely one-sided domination battle, but Liu Yu Tong had just broken through. Moreover, her

breakthrough was successful because she had used alchemical pills, so her foundation was not yet strong enough, which naturally affected her battle prowess. And though Hu Bo had also reached his current cultivation level with the help of alchemical pills, he had after all been stuck at the peak period of the first layer for quite some time, so naturally, he had already solidified his foundation.

Thus, the battle prowess these two could display was more or less equal, and it would be difficult to decide the victor of this battle in a short period of time.

"Yi, isn't this the pearl of the Liu Clan, why is she so strong?"

"That's right, I remember that just barely half a year ago, she was still in the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier, and it should be at least another two years before she'd be able to break through to Gushing Spring Tier! Yet she is now actually in the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier! This is practically unbelievable!"

"Tsk, this beautiful flower is really getting harder and harder to pluck!"

"However, she is also becoming more and more desirable, such talent, tsk, tsk, tsk, I have my eye on this woman!"

"Nonsense, you think you're worthy of her?"

Those who were gathered were all embroiled in their discussions. They were all either from the Imperial Family or the Eight Great Clans, and all of their Clans had power that was no weaker than the Liu Clan's. And since they were able to come here, this also meant that their power and talent were the best of the best, so naturally, all of them had their own pride.

Liu Yu Tong had attacked for a very long time, yet did not manage to get the upper hand, so the flames of rage in her heart became stronger and stronger. She suddenly flicked her sword, and a powerful sword intent circulated through her sword, and her

whole figure became extremely solemn.

Four Seasons Sword Techniques, a Black Grade high level martial arts technique!

This sword technique was separated into four different parts, each representing Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. In truth, it could be considered as four different sword techniques, which combined into a major sword technique. The best scenario was for four different people to use each sword technique at the same time, which will drastically increase the power.

But it was not impossible for a single person to circulate this sword technique. This required the user to have a high control over their sword, one move following after another. Spring followed by Summer, Autumn followed by Winter, to form the cycle of the four seasons, which would also create a formidably powerful attack technique.

Liu Yu Tong had only just learnt a few moves of the Spring Rain Sword Technique, so naturally she was not able to form the cycle of seasons yet, which were the sword intents of Spring Rain, Summer Thunder, Autumn Wind, and Winter Snow. However, Black Grade high level martial arts techniques were still Black Grade high level martial arts techniques, any single move would be enough to create a terrifying power.

"Shua," the light from the sword was extremely cold, and there actually appeared droplets of rain dancing through the air that followed the sword as it moved. It was an impressive sight.

The beauty was like a painting, and her sword was like the most beautiful scene, causing all the others to feel as if they had become drunk just from watching her dance. Even some of them who had determined to spend their whole lives on martial arts now could not help their hearts from wavering, getting drunk from watching Liu Yu Tong's beauty.

The beauty was like jade while her sword was like a rainbow,

causing a lot of them to feel the urge to write a poem or sing a song in her honor.

There was only one thing left to say: it was too beautiful.

Chapter 126: Alerting the Old Monsters

Meanwhile, Hu Bo did not have such a refined and elegant state of mind. On the contrary, he felt a colossal pressure, and beads of cold sweat continuously rolled down his forehead.

Although Liu Yu Tong was as agile as a deity and her movements were so heartbreakingly beautiful, she was also like a female Goddess of Battle. The pressure emanating from her was so high that all his nerves were tensed. He almost felt like he wanted to throw away his sword and surrender.

But, if he were to give up so easily in front of so many eyes, he would definitely be harshly scolded by the Elders of his Clan upon his return.

He gave a huge shout, and his sword quivered at a quick rhythm as he used his strongest martial arts technique.

Cloud Slashing Sword!

This was a secret art of the Hu Clan, and was also a Black Grade martial arts technique, but was only a Black Grade low level martial arts technique—the Hu Clan of course also had Black Grade mid level martial arts techniques, but those were the core secret treasures of the Hu Clan. How could a junior that had just broken through to Gushing Spring Tier recently be allowed to learn these techniques?

If one wanted to learn Black Grade mid level martial arts techniques, one would have to be at least in Spiritual Ocean Tier and prove that one was fully loyal to the Clan, ensuring no possibility of betrayal.

"Hong!"

The two of them once again clashed together, and the environment immediately became explosive and fiery. Even a few of the old monsters had come out, observing the battle with a

smile, hands behind their backs. Though this level of battle in their eyes was like a child's game, Liu Yu Tong and Hu Bo were both likely to reach their level in the future, so naturally, their attention was attracted.

The Cloud Slashing Sword Technique was a swift and fierce technique. It would even be able to cut the clouds floating in the sky in half, thus it was a very overbearing sword technique. On the other hand, the Spring Rain Sword Technique was like a gust of wind in spring transforming into rain, silently nurturing the earth, seeming very peaceful and beautiful, an extremely gentle technique.

But, why was the Spring Rain Sword Technique a Black Grade high level martial arts technique then?

Although the rain in spring was very gentle, but at the same time, it could also contain killing intent!

"Shua, shua, shua." Uncountable droplets of rain flew and danced in the air, and actually transformed into uncountable number of tiny needles, as if they were sharp swords that had shrunk an uncountable number of times. They pierced into the pores of Hu Bo's skin, and went directly into his veins.

These droplets of rain were all created by the Spring Rain Sword Technique, and contained Liu Yu Tong's own Origin Power. Once they entered into Hu Bo's veins, they naturally contained a very strong destructive effect.

They had only exchanged three moves, and Hu Bo's battle prowess took a drastic drop; he was completely dominated by Liu Yu Tong.

...Under the conditions where power was almost equal on both sides, the one who had the advantage in martial arts technique would naturally gain the upper hand, what more when this was a high level martial arts technique dominating a low level martial arts technique. The gap between the two was not just a little bit.

Ling Han nodded slightly. Yu Tong truly was quite talented. She had already managed to grasp the concept behind the Spring Rain Sword Technique. Although this was also in some part due to his guidance, it also proved that Liu Yu Tong had quite a high talent in the field of martial arts.

Being able to move the Spiritual Qi in their surroundings and transform it into a real, solid attack—that was the strongest advantage of a Black Grade martial arts technique!

"This can't be right. Even though Hu Bo cannot be considered to be part of the strongest elite in the younger generation of the Imperial City, he can definitely fit into the third class, and definitely can be named as a well-known figure. How is it that he is so quickly at a disadvantage?"

"It's not that Liu Yu Tong is so much stronger than him, but that her sword technique is much too scary, using softness to counter strength. It's a very mysterious sword technique!"

"En, if it was me against her.... unless my power was strong enough to completely overwhelm her, I would be absolutely under her control because of this sword technique."

"Gods, what sword technique is that?"

The youths continued to discuss among themselves, and more and more old monsters were attracted to the commotion happening here. Their eyes were completely focused on Liu Yu Tong. The longer they watched her, the more anxious their expressions became, and the more of a very deep dread they contained.

Honestly speaking, if they suppressed their power to about the same as Liu Yu Tong's current level, they would most probably only manage to achieve a tie in front of this sword technique, and this was still taking into account their abundant battle experience.

How was this possible?

They all had their own Black Grade mid level martial arts technique, as well as battle experience that exceeded Liu Yu Tong by who knew how many times. Yet if they battled with her on the same level, they could only manage a tie with Liu Yu Tong?

"Black Grade high level martial arts technique!" The old monsters all exchanged a look and mouthed these six words before they all turned their eyes towards the old monster from the Liu Clan.

They all only had Black Grade mid level martial arts technique, so there was a fine balance of power among all the Eight Great Clans. Yet now the Liu Clan had a Black Grade high level martial arts technique, which naturally meant that this fine balance was broken.

Even if the old monster of the Liu Clan was in Spiritual Pedestal Tier, he still started to sweat when he became the sudden focus of the attention of so many others of the same cultivation level. He began to rebuke Liu Yu Tong in his thoughts. Liu Yu Tong managed to learn such a powerful martial arts technique, yet did not save it as a trump card, and actually used it in front of so many people. Wouldn't that be trying to attract others to covet this sword technique?

He wanted to claim that the Liu Clan did not possess this sword technique, but also knew that the other old monsters would not believe him—since Liu Yu Tong knew this sword technique, then wouldn't that be equivalent to the Liu Clan also knowing this sword technique?

But, he was also extremely curious. Where had Liu Yu Tong learnt this sword technique from?

Liu Yu Tong gave a light shout, and as she brandished her sword, the Spring Rain Sword Technique was becoming more and more well-practiced. It was a martial arts technique after all, and the main purpose of martial arts technique was to be used for battle, so naturally, she could only grasp the essence of the sword technique

in true battle.

The more she grasped of the essence of the Spring Rain Sword Technique, the more she looked as light as a deity. In the eyes of the audience, it was as if she was the Fairy of the Jade Lake, dancing gracefully. As her sword danced, the rain droplets of spring danced with her continuously, creating a scene so beautiful it could cause suffocation.

All the young men there revealed expressions of captivation. There was even a number of people who were no longer young, yet could feel their hearts wavering, as if they had returned to their youth when they would be pursuing beautiful sights and sounds, horses and dogs.

"Enough!" The old monster from the Hu Clan spoke, extending a hand. His Origin Power transformed into a giant palm that separated Liu Yu Tong and Hu Bo. "This is just a spar. Take care not to overdo it. Let's just consider this as a tie."

Hearing these words, all the others were snorting in derision in their thoughts. What do you mean by a tie? It would take at most another three moves, and Hu Bo would definitely be harshly defeated! But who dared to talk back against a Spiritual Pedestal Tier warrior so publicly? Unless... someone thought they had lived for too long and would like to end their life prematurely?

Liu Yu Tong felt very regretful. She did not intend to defeat Hu Bo, but rather to teach him a good lesson he would remember strongly.

Hu Bo stepped back, but there was confusion on his face. He did not understand why Liu Yu Tong had become so strong. And when he saw that Liu Yu Tong had stepped back and stood beside Ling Han, a terrifying killing intent rose up within his eyes.

This brat was actually still pestering Liu Yu Tong!

How hateful! Damn it!

The stronger Liu Yu Tong was and the more terrifying the talent in martial arts she displayed, the more he wanted to make this genius girl his. So, naturally, he could not bear to see her to be so close to any man.

He was not the only one. When the young men in the area all saw this, they all looked at Ling Han with very unfriendly gazes.

It was only now that they discovered that there was not only one beauty by Ling Han's side. There was another beauty that was completely not beneath Liu Yu Tong by his side.

Li Si Chan!

Gods, the Twin Pearls of the Imperial City that were so famous have all become his women?

Damn this f***** bastard!

And within this one instant, Ling Han had become public enemy number one. Any of them who had the slightest bit of interest in Liu Yu Tong or Li Si Chan all considered Ling Han to be their rival. Moreover, the admirers of these two girls were enough to queue up in a line that could encircle the Imperial City three times, so the number of new enemies Ling Han had gotten could be imagined.

...And this was only the younger generation of the Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family.

"Brother Ling, I never thought you would have arrived so early!" The Third Imperial Prince stepped out and gave Ling Han a friendly smile. He was a man that was meant for great things, so he would of course not lose himself in the beauty of women.

"Hehe," Ling Han laughed and said, "can we set off now?"

He had already waited for quite a few days, and could no longer wait to find out the secrets hidden at the source of the underground river.

Chapter 127: Bone Eating Grass

"Let's set out!" One of the old monsters gave a wave of his hand. Previously, the youths of his own Clan were not here, so he naturally could not allow anyone else to pass through that opening first. But things were different now.

Whatever reminders needed were already given, and no one was now wasting their time on pointless chatter; they all entered the river's waters.

They all passed through one by one, entering into the hidden area behind the Light of God.

Ling Han's expression instantly became serious. If a place had the Light of God, then even he—someone who had once been an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier in his last life—had to proceed cautiously lest any careless move on his part caused his death. The reason why he had been willing to create an opening and allow so many people entry was also because he intended to have these people enter first to scout out any possible dangers.

Of course, fateful encounters were always accompanied by serious danger. If one wanted to obtain great rewards, one would of course have to prepare to face great risk. This would be fair to every single person.

After the opening still lay a stretch of the underground river. They continued to advance, and soon, a piece of land appeared in front of them.

At this moment, they should be deep within the Blood Gushing Mountain, yet it was actually empty inside, containing a gigantic empty space.

They all stepped onto land. It was not too dark here, as there was a mysterious light flickering in the area that lit up the belly of this mountain. However, they were not able to see too far ahead, as if

there was something that was hindering their sight.

A lot of them separated from others and left. Even those who were from the same Clan had divided themselves into quite a considerable number of teams.

Firstly, this was to not put all their eggs in a single basket, and secondly, even those who came from the same Clan may not be completely united and close to each other. In that case, it was best not to stick together. If they encountered danger, they not only would not help each other, they may even hinder each other.

Very quickly, the group of people separated into their own groups and went towards all the different directions.

"Brother Ling, I shall take my leave first!" The Third Imperial Prince raised his clasped hands in Ling Han's direction, with only the crimson-haired beauty by his side.

Ling Han gave a nod, and watched the Third Imperial Prince leave.

All of a sudden, the area had become deserted, and only Ling Han, Liu Yu Tong, and Li Si Chan were left behind.

"Where should we go?" Liu Yu Tong asked. This place looked like a plain. Aside from the underground river behind them, every other direction was absolutely empty. She really did not know which direction they should decide on that would be the right choice.

Ling Han took out the treasured saber and used his divine sense to communicate with the scrap of consciousness in the saber, wanting to incite the instinctive reaction of the treasured saber to find the remains of Jiang Yue Feng.

Yet, there was absolutely no reaction from the treasured saber.

How strange!

Ling Han frowned slightly. If Jiang Yue Feng had really joined

the ranks of Heaven Tier, then even if he had been dead for over ten thousand years, his body would still not decay. The ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier had already walked a very long way on the path of martial arts, and their martial intent was deeply carved into every drop of blood, every piece of flesh, and every bone in their bodies.

From a certain point of view, the remains of these ultimate warriors could also be considered as a kind of Spiritual Tool—in truth, a large number of Spiritual Tools were made from the bones of extremely powerful demonic beasts. Human bones could also be used, of course. But that was much too terrifying, so practically nobody dared to do such a thing.

Thus, the remains of the user and his Spiritual Tool contained the same martial intent, so they should be attracting each other, yet why was there completely no reaction at all?

Unless!

Ling Han's expression took a swift turn. Unless there was nothing left of Jiang Yue Feng's body! Then, naturally there would no reaction from his Spiritual Tool at all.

But what had actually happened at that time that even the remains of an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier had completely disappeared?

"Let's just walk somewhere," he said. They didn't know which direction was the best anyways.

The three of them advanced and after they had walked for a while, Ling Han suddenly stopped.

"What's wrong?" Liu Yu Tong asked.

Ling Han did not say anything. He went off slightly to the side of the direction they were heading in and came to the side of a huge boulder.

The two girls followed in his footsteps, but did not see anything

particularly interesting about this boulder. There was only a stalk of grass growing at the side of the boulder. If they had not examined it clearly, they would have thought that it was a piece of bone.

"What kind of grass is that?" They were both very surprised.

"This is Bone Eating Grass, and it will only grow on a dead body," Ling Han explained. There was something else that he did not say, and that was that only the dead bodies of at least Deity Transformation warriors would cause the growth of the Bone Eating Grass.

"Ya!" The two girls instantly turned pale. Though the two of them were martial artists and death should be something very common to them, women would still be women. If a woman heard that she could possibly be stepping on a dead body, her heart would definitely skip a beat.

Ling Han struck with a palm, and the huge boulder was flung away with the force of his strike.

"Ah!" Both girls gasped in shock, for there was a skeletal hand extending out of the ground. The pure white finger bones emitted an eerie feeling.

"Don't be afraid. He has been dead for over ten thousand years," Ling Han said.

The two girls immediately rolled their eyes at this. This young man was highly intelligent, had exceptional talent in martial arts, and was impossibly capable in alchemy, yet he was an absolute idiot when it came to his EQ! If they were afraid of this dead body, how could they still jump out to wound others in martial arts? Of course they were not afraid!

Ling Han took out his sword, and carefully dug away the soil around the skeletal hand.

With the physical strength of an Element Gathering Tier martial

artist, digging some soil was of course a piece of cake. Very soon, after the skeletal hand appeared a skeletal arm, followed by the shoulder, and quickly there appeared a skull that was in an upright position.

"Why is it not lying down?" The two girls asked curiously. After death, it should be impossible for one to maintain a standing position. Could it be that someone had buried him standing up after this person had died?

"When the power of a martial artist has reached a certain level, and his martial intent is threaded through his entire body, then he would be able to remain standing for a few hundred years even after his death," Ling Han explained. "My guess is that this person died from battle here, and kept maintaining this pose. Afterwards, after an uncountable number of years, perhaps something happened on the surface, causing some rocks and soil to fall from the cave ceiling which completely buried his body."

The two girls were both very astonished. A person would still be able to remain standing even after death? At least they had never heard of any powerful warrior of Spiritual Pedestal Tier being able to do that kind of thing.

Ling Han continued to dig, and soon, the complete remains were in front of their eyes.

This was obviously a male, and there was still a suit of purple-colored embroidered robes that had not yet rotted on him. However, there was shockingly a hole on the chest area of the robes—this should be the location of the wound that had caused this person's death. Additionally, the rib in front of where the heart should have been when he was alive was broken.

They could imagine that he had been embroiled in a fierce battle with another person, and his opponent had crushed his heart with a single punch, causing all life signs to be washed away from him after this blow.

Yet, Ling Han directly removed the embroidered robes from this skeleton, causing the two girls to exclaim in disgust. This was something that had been worn by a corpse.

"Unfortunate, it's really too unfortunate!" Ling Han sighed continuously, "This is a secret treasure woven from Purple Jade Silk. It's unfortunate that an extremely powerful blow has destroyed all its abilities, ai!" He gave a light tug, and the embroidered robes were easily torn open.

"What is this Purple Jade Silk?" Liu Yu Tong asked.

"The Purple Jade Heaven Silkworm is a Level Nine demonic beast, and the Purple Jade Silk is the silk that is spat out by it," Ling Han explained very simply.

"Hiss!"

The two girls both inhaled sharply, a Level Nine demonic beast.... then wouldn't that be equivalent to Heaven Tier! A piece of clothing that is woven from the silk that is spat out by a Level Nine demonic beast, that should be the ultimate kind of treasure!

"Such protective armor should be able to withstand at least over a hundred continuous attacks from a Heaven Tier warrior before being destroyed, yet from the looks of this hole, it was pierced open by a single punch." Ling Han raised his head, and looked up with a burning stare, "This proves that the Shattering Void Tier indeed exists in this world!"

Chapter 128: Spatial Ring

The reason why Ling Han had died in his last life was because of his quest to seek the secrets behind attaining Shattering Void Tier. Now that he had seen a real proof of the existence of Shattering Void Tier, he could not help but get excited.

But after his wave of excitement had passed, all he felt was worry and incomprehension.

Jiang Yue Feng had obviously taken part in such a clash of the titans, but what was the reason for it?

Everyone knew that the higher one's cultivation level was, the larger the difference there would be between the power levels of different cultivation levels. For example, he, at the fourth layer of Element Gathering Tier, was able to pit himself even against an opponent in the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier. But, once he reached Heaven Tier, the difference of a single layer would be like the gap between Heaven and Earth. There existed a gulf that was impossible to cross between the first layer and the second layer of Heaven Tier.

If there really rose up an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier in this world, then that was definitely an invincible existence. Why would Jiang Yue Feng still choose to battle such an opponent when he obviously knew he was no match for the latter?

It would be fine if only one such "idiot" appeared. The thing was—there were too many of them, and all of them were powerful warriors of Heaven Tier. How could he believe such a thing?

Beside this corpse also lay a sword, the martial intent of its previous user engraved within the seals carved onto it. This was an ultimate secret treasure, able to pass on the martial arts knowledge of this powerful warrior. Unfortunately, once it had left the restraints of the ground, the sword automatically awakened and transformed into a rainbow that exited via the water. In an

instant, it had completely disappeared without any traces left behind.

Ling Han shook his head with a sigh. The current him was really much too weak. Even if the greatest of treasures lay in front of him, he did not have the ability to make it his own. This feeling could really make one feel depressed.

"Yi?" His eyes lit up all of a sudden. There was actually a ring on the finger of this corpse.

If a powerful warrior such as this person was still wearing this kind of adornment, then one thing was clear. This ring was definitely a treasure!

It could be a Spiritual Tool, or could be a support-type treasure that could help one meditate and rest, but the biggest possibility of what it could be was—Spatial Ring.

It could create a dimension of its own that was a space for storage.

Ling Han removed the ring, used his divine sense to scan over it, and could confirm that this was definitely the Spatial Ring that he had always wanted.

'What a huge reward!' He thought. Even if he did not get anything else out of this journey, it was a big enough reward to have gotten this Spatial Ring.

"Your grin looks so terrifying, what is it?" Li Si Chan said, feeling a bit crept out. The grin currently on Ling Han's face was really too scary.

Ling Han laughed and said, "Let me show you two a magic trick."

He slipped the Spatial Ring onto his finger, then removed a pill bottle from his pocket. He waved it around a few times, indicating for the two girls to watch clearly. Then, with a 'Xiu', the pill bottle had disappeared.

"Yi!" The two girls gasped in unison. How could a solid pill bottle just disappear like that?

"Aren't you going to give me some applause?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

"Yi, how did you make the thing disappear?" Li Si Chan's eyes were wide open in a stare. If it was not the fact that Ling Han was male and she was female, she really wanted to search all over Ling Han's body.

"It would not be interesting if I tell you the trick to it," Ling Han laughed. He took out the pill bottles and monetary notes from his pockets and, one by one, stored them into the Spatial Ring.

It truly was the Spatial Ring that once belonged to a Heaven Tier warrior. The space inside was about as big as a whole house, so it could store a lot of things. The benefits of the Spatial Ring was not only the fact that it was convenient. Another advantage of it was that it could hide things very well. Unless the Spatial Ring was snatched away, there was no way the things stored inside would be found.

In this tiny little Rain Country, probably no one else knew how to use the Spatial Rings, so Ling Han was very reassured.

What Ling Han thought disappointing was the fact that the Spatial Ring was completely empty. There was nothing inside at all.

There was no way an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier could be this poor, of course. Ling Han deduced that this warrior of Heaven Tier was well aware that he was going to die in this battle, so he had left behind all the good stuff he owned to his descendants. The Spatial Ring most possibly only contained things like some alchemical pills that could replenish his Origin Power or heal his injuries, as well as his Spiritual Tools.

Thus, the alchemical pills were used, and the Spiritual Tools

were taken out to be used in battle, so there was naturally nothing left inside the Spatial Ring.

Forget it, one can't be too greedy.

Ling Han buried the corpse of this warrior, feeling a bit of sorrow as he did. How rare and powerful was a warrior of Heaven Tier... yet in the end, there wasn't even a person to collect his remains. One really has to sigh at this.

"Let's go!" They continued to advance forwards.

Those who had walked ahead of them had also discovered a corpse. Yet they were not as lucky as Ling Han, who had managed to obtain a Spatial Ring. They only saw a pile of white bones, that shattered into dust upon a single touch.

The remains of powerful warriors of Heaven Tier should not be so feeble, but the appearance of the Bone Eating Grass has changed everything. The nutrients and essence of these bones have all been absorbed by the grass so they had become the same as those of a mortal, thus it was natural that they were unable to withstand the eroding powers of time.

If Ling Han had come just a bit later, then the corpse he had discovered would not have been as intact. The essence of the bones had not yet been completely absorbed by the Bone Eating Grass, so naturally the bones were still able to maintain their sturdiness.

The Bone Eating Grass was a very odd kind of plant. It could only grow on the remains of powerful warriors of at least Deity Transformation Tier, yet it did not have any value by itself. The essence that it had sucked out would be directly returned to nature.

It could be claimed as the garbage collector of nature.

Ling Han's face became more and more somber. Just the way that he had passed, he could see no less than twenty corpses of these powerful warriors.

Twenty corpses!

When have Heaven Tier warriors become so cheap?

"Yi, what is that?" Liu Yu Tong asked, suddenly pointing at a spot.

Ling Han looked in the direction she was pointing at and saw that there was a white flower growing all alone there. The flower stem was like jade and its bud was about the size of a human fist. There was light glowing all around it. He suddenly gaped in shock, a disbelieving expression on his face.

Even he, someone who had once been an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier, was very shocked—it was proof that this flower was definitely extraordinary!

That was natural, because the light flickering around the flower was the same as the light that shone from the Light of God.

A Level Ten Spiritual Medicine; this could be claimed as a medicine of the gods!

"This is a big bonus, a really big bonus!" A strange light shone from Ling Han's eyes. In his last life, he had only heard of Level Nine treasured medicines, and had hoped at least to see such an item once in his lifetime, yet had never thought that he would be able to come upon a Level Ten godly medicine in this life.

Could this kind of godly medicine in front of them allow one to immediately become a deity, and directly shatter the void to become a god?

Ling Han did not know, but such a godly medicine was right in front of him. There was no justification to him simply passing by, ignoring it.

He immediately walked towards the godly medicine, his expression unable to hide the excitement he was feeling.

"Stop right there!" There was a cold humph, and four men were

racing over. Obviously, they had also discovered this stalk of godly medicine—though they did not know its true value.

How could Ling Han bother to pay them any attention? However, these four people were not just fast, they had also shot out a long-distance attack. "Xiu," a flash of light from a saber swept over, a dominating pressure emanating from it.

Liu Yu Tong drew her sword and, "ding," managed to block this saber attack.

"All who manage to find the natural treasures of this world have a share to it. Let us first discuss how we are going to divide it among ourselves!" A middle-aged man said as he neared them.

"Huang Zi Tao!" Liu Yu Tong's elegant brow wrinkled into a slight frown, showing a sliver of dread in her expression.

This man was a clansman of the Huang Clan of the Eight Great Clans. In terms of age, he was older by Liu Yu Tong by about ten years, and was in his early thirties. He was in the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier and was definitely not someone to be underestimated.

"We take ninety percent, and you guys get ten percent. No disagreements, right?" Huang Zi Tao said haughtily.

...If he knew that this was a stalk of godly medicine, then he most probably would not be talking about this kind of division method, and instead immediately kill them off to keep them from divulging the secret, and making this godly medicine his own.

"No disagreements your sister!" Ling Han directly gave him the middle finger.

Chapter 129: Godly Medicine

"Damn!" Huang Zi Tao and his companions were stunned for a while before finally reacting. They all brandished their respective weapons in a very aggressive manner.

They had already long disliked the look of Ling Han. He was only a single person but he had managed to obtain the hearts of both Twin Pearls of the Imperial City. Hearing his provocative reply now, how could they hold themselves back anymore? They all brandished their respective weapons in attack and charged towards him.

"Bullying those who are younger than you, don't you feel the slightest bit of shame?" Ling Han snorted, his feet placed in the movements of Exiting Cloud Steps, his sword quivering, shooting out flashes of cold light.

Not all of Huang Zi Tao's party were powerful elites. The other three were only in Element Gathering Tier, and they had only dared to charge because Huang Zi Tao was there to hold up the lines. Ling Han thus placed his focus on these three people. The Exiting Cloud Steps was a quick and strange movement, allowing him to dodge every single one of Huang Zi Tao's attacks. His Sword Qi danced unhindered, shooting towards the other three men.

His battle prowess was enough to dominate an ordinary martial artist in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, plus he had also formed six flashes of Sword Qi, so his attack power was definitely domineering. "Shua, shua, shua," the torn pieces of cloth flew everywhere as if they were butterflies, and the three men suffering the brunt of his attacks shrieked. The clothing on their bodies was continuously being slashes into pieces, leaving behind one wound after another.

"Brat, face me directly if you dare!" Huang Zi Tao shouted furiously.

"Is something wrong with your brain?" Ling Han snorted. "I'm only in the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier, yet you're in the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and you still want me to face you directly? Have you become an idiot from too much martial arts practice?"

"Damn!" Huang Zi Tao once again cursed, and shouted loudly, "Step back, all of you!"

These three people were not able to help him—on the contrary, they were hindering him, making him unable to fully use his abilities. They were even sometimes used as human shields by Ling Han, forcing him to withdraw his saber in the nick of time quite a few times.

After the other three had stepped back as per his command, Huang Zi Tao waved his saber, and indeed, the area of effect of his attacks expanded. The light of the saber was bitingly cold, and like pouring water, surrounded Ling Han completely. In such a situation, he was indeed very much at the advantage, suppressing Ling Han to the point that he was unable to fight back in any way at all and could only dodge to the best of his abilities.

Yet Liu Yu Tong did not fling out any attacks of her own. Instead, she took advantage of the opportunity to continue to advance nearer to that stalk of godly medicine. This was the plan that Ling Han had decided on from the start. He would be the one in charge of detaining Huang Zi Tao, while Liu Yu Tong would be responsible for plucking the medicinal herb.

As long as Huang Zi Tao was unable to free himself to stop her, then how could a few martial artists of mere Element Gathering Tier be able to match Liu Yu Tong?

"Oh, no!" None of the three were idiots, so they very quickly discovered Liu Yu Tong's movements. They hurriedly pounced, intending to stop her. However, they had moved a little too late, and added with the fact that all three were only in Element

Gathering Tier, how could they manage to catch up to her?

Liu Yu Tong moved without turning up any dust, quickly making her way to that stalk of godly medicine.

Just when she saw that she was only about ten metres away from her target, "shua." A flash of Sword Qi swept towards her, forcing her to stop her advance.

A white-robed young man wielding a sword approached them. His face was like crowning jade, and he had black hair. Every step he took was as if he was performing some kind of amazing rhythm of nature, inadvertently attracting the eyes of everyone in the area, becoming the target of everyone's attention.

"Sun Bu Ren!" Liu Yu Tong's eyes narrowed a bit, revealing an expression of deep dread.

Sun Bu Ren, the most outstanding clansman of this generation of the Sun Clan. Though he was not one of the Core Disciples of the Hu Yang Academy, he was still among the ten strongest True Disciples, having the ability to break into the ranks of the Core Disciples.

His name was originally Sun Ren, yet he later changed his name to [Sun Bu Ren](#). Apparently, he has always admired the merciless character of Xiao Xiong, and the way he would use all ends to achieve his means. Thus, the name Sun Bu Ren was born.

Third layer of Gushing Spring Tier, with unfathomable depths to his battle prowess—he should be at least able to reach five Stars.

"Yu Tong girl, could you yield this treasured herb to me? How about it?" Sun Bu Ren wore a smile on his face, as warm as a gust of wind in spring. Yet those who were familiar with him knew very well that this person was of fickle character. In one instant, he could be all smiles, but in the next, his face could change completely as he made a move to kill you.

"I don't agree with that!" A light laughter was heard, and another

person appeared. This newcomer was quite tall, with a handsome appearance, and in terms of aura, was not beneath Sun Bu Ren.

"Hu Feng Yue!" Sun Bu Ren's expression tensed.

Hu Feng Yue was also one of the ten strongest True Disciples of Hu Yang Academy.

"Me neither!" Another young elite appeared, yet this one was a little fatty. His figure was as round as a wine barrel, yet his appearance caused both Hu Feng Yue and Sun Bu Ren to frown.

Qian Wu Yong, also one of the ten strongest True Disciples.

All right, then. The area was quite empty just now, yet in a few moments, so many elite martial artists have appeared.

Ling Han and Huang Zi Tao naturally both ceased fighting. There were too many elite martial artists here, and whoever made the first move was definitely an idiot.

"Hehe, none of you want to make a move? Then this Spiritual Medicine will belong to me!" Qian Wu Yong shot forward. Though he was exceptionally plump, he was also exceptionally fast, and within moments, he had reached the stalk of godly medicine.

"Insolence!" Sun Bu Ren, Hu Feng Yue, and Huang Zi Tao all acted at the same time. Saber Qi and Sword Qi flew forward in unison, creating a terrifying sight.

Qian Wu Yong could not help but turn over in midair to dodge the attacks of these three people. Even he would not dare to clash head-on with the united attacks of three such elite warriors.

However, the deadlock was broken, and the four of them attacked each other. They would be stopping each other from snatching away the treasured herb, while also trying their best to first get their hands on the treasured herb. All of a sudden, the scene was in a complete mess.

Ling Han did not move. Instead, he simply stood at one side.

When the victor was finally decided, he would only need to just take out his treasured saber to snatch back the godly medicine.

Huang Zi Tao and the other three had been worried at first that the shock waves from their battle would be too powerful and damage that stalk of treasured herb. But after their battle had gone on for a while, they realized that all the energy of their attacks would be blocked from advancing further by the light surrounding the herb once it reached it. The shock wave was unable to spread any farther than that.

Now, they were even bolder, and their movements were even more without care. Sabers and swords flashed as Origin Power gushed forth.

As Ling Han watched, he gave a light nod. Aside from Huang Zi Tao, all the other three were extremely powerful. If it was not for the fact that Huang Zi Tao had the advantage in terms of cultivation level, he would have been forced out of the battle by the other three long ago. Even so, Huang Zi Tao was the weakest one of the bunch. There was not much difference whether he was there or not.

Sun Bu Ren managed to form three flashes of Sword Qi, while Hu Feng Yue had three flashes of Saber Qi. The little fatty used claws, and similarly had three flashes of Qi. The three of them could be said to be evenly matched, and it was difficult to decide who was the stronger one.

"They are all among the ten strongest True Disciples of the Academy. As for the question about who is stronger, none of them have revealed their true prowess before, so there is no basis for judgment," Liu Yu Tong whispered to Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "Within three months, you will definitely be able to surpass them!"

If these words were heard by someone else, they'd definitely laugh themselves half to death.

One has to know that the reputations of Hu Feng Yue and the other two in Hu Yang Academy have all come from the many battles they have fought. They had also spent quite a few years before finally managing to attain the positions they had today. How could they simply be surpassed as easily as that?

Yet Liu Yu Tong was absolutely confident. Her talent was real, plus she was cultivating a Heaven Grade cultivation technique and using the alchemical medicines that Ling Han had concocted; there was also the Black Grade high level martial arts technique that she was learning. All these factors added together would definitely allow her to be completely transformed into a new person in three months' time.

The battle between the four Gushing Spring Tier martial artists was growing fiercer and more violent, inciting flames of rage from all four of them. Seeing that the deadlock was unable to be broken, they all made a move to snatch the stalk of godly medicine, obviously intending to get some benefits first.

"F***!" Ling Han cursed. He hurriedly drew the saber and rushed forward. This was a godly medicine, how could he allow it to be damaged?

But it was at this very moment that something no one expected happened—the stalk of godly medicine actually removed itself from the ground, slipped, and as if its roots were its legs, "Pa, pa, pa," it turned a cartwheel on the ground and had broken through the siege of the four of them in an instant. It began racing away at a very fast pace.

F***!

Not sure who Xiao Xiong is... ED/N: As for Sun Bu Ren, the meaning is roughly Sun (not) Humane, or to be less literal but more precise, Sun Heartless after he added Bu (it means 'no' or 'not'). Oh, "Sun" here is Chinese, I don't mean the star in our sky.

Chapter 130: Played

What the... a medicinal herb actually uprooted itself and was now racing off?

When they witnessed such a scene, everyone was stunned for a moment before finally coming back to themselves and swiftly chasing after the runaway herb.

Not even Ling Han had foreseen that something like this would happen.

Even if Huang Zi Tao and the others did not know the origins of this godly medicine, if a herb could actually uproot itself and run away, then with their intelligence, how could they not deduce that the value of this medicinal herb was far, far above what they had imagined?

A godly medicinal herb was running in front, while a large group of people was chasing after it. This scene was a bit funny, but no one had the intention to laugh at this moment. They had all put their focus into running, trying to grab hold of the runaway herb.

In myths, there were some treasures that had developed consciousness. They could travel underground and fly through the air, and this herb... though it was not travelling underground or flying through the air, since it was able to run around like a human being, its value should not be low.

As they ran, the commotion attracted more and more people to join in the ranks of chasers.

Ling Han discovered that this stalk of godly medicine was definitely doing this on purpose, because it kept continuously running around in circles, attracting more and more people to chase after it; yet, it was always in control of maintaining a proper distance, obviously being very skilled at this kind of game.

Could a stalk of godly medicine actually develop its own

intelligence?

When he thought this, Ling Han could not help becoming overwhelmed with shock.

A thing like intelligence belonged to human beings and demonic beasts, and some demonic beasts may even have intelligence equal to a human being's, yet he had never heard that plants could have intelligence as well.

With the deliberate leading of this stalk of godly medicine, out of the people who have entered this space, at least three quarters had joined in the race after the godly medicinal herb. However, not one of them managed to catch up to it. They all could only run after its heels and eat dust.

"We can't go on like this!" Someone proclaimed.

"Why do I feel like I've been played with by a stalk of Spiritual Medicine?"

"Although this is an outrageous, but this is what I think—this stalk of godly medicine is evil!"

"Hehe, if you think it's evil, you can give up. No one's forcing you to run after it!"

"But I'm curious!"

No one was willing to give up. Now, even idiots should be able to guess that this stalk of godly medicine was unbelievably valuable. There were even some people who had deliberately left to inform those old monsters to have them set up a trap outside so that this stalk of Spiritual Medicine would not suddenly run off through the underground river and then disappear completely.

"Hear my command. Everyone move separately, and combine forces to catch this stalk of Spiritual Medicine!" The Third Imperial Prince said. "Now, the higher ranks have been alerted—according to them, we must apprehend this stalk of Spiritual Medicine at all costs, so please do not harbor any selfish motives,

all of you."

Everyone nodded. Since even the higher ranks outside the opening have been alerted, how could they dare to disobey?

It was most appropriate for the Third Imperial Prince to take command. Firstly, because he was strong enough, and secondly, because his status was high enough. As one command after another was announced, none dared to disobey. Even Hu Feng Yue, Sun Bu Ren, and the others obeyed his commands strictly.

On the surface, at least, there was no disagreement from them.

However, Ling Han could deduce that these young men were mostly filled with great ambition. How could they simply give up when such a valuable godly medicine was right in front of their eyes? They were all definitely filled with their own motives. Once they managed to get their hands on it, they would immediately swallow it. Who knows, maybe they would experience a dramatic transformation, and in a single step, become a god.

The circle of people widened, and the stalk of godly medicine kept running into danger in all directions. However, no one had guessed that the godly medicine had not been displaying its full speed at all. It was only now that it was surrounded by danger on all sides that it suddenly showed off a burst of speed, and became as quick as lightning.

Once it broke through their siege, the stalk of godly medicine actually raised its roots in their direction, like a human raising his finger. When they thought about it, the finger it was raising was definitely the middle finger.

Awesome, this wasn't just a stalk of godly medicine, it was also a stalk of godly medicine with the character of a ruffian.

There was a strange feeling arising in all of them. They had actually been played by a stalk of Spiritual Medicine!

"I'm so angry, I will definitely eat you!" One of them with an

impatient character shouted loudly in his anger.

The circle of people was once again in place and gradually shrank in size, leaving less and less space for the stalk of godly medicine to run around in.

Ling Han frowned. With the huge commotion that this stalk of godly medicine has stirred up, even if he was able to dominate over everyone here, would he be able to get this stalk of godly medicine undamaged? If he ate it in front of the eyes of everyone here... then who knows if he'd be made into human soup by the old monsters waiting outside once he exited this place!

That was really something that the old monsters would do, because most godly medicines had the ability to extend one's lifespan, and what do those old monsters lack the most?

Time and life!

He could not help feeling troubled. What could he do now that would allow him to make this stalk of godly medicine his own without alerting anyone else to the fact? He had the Spatial Ring, so there was absolutely no problem for him to conceal it without any trace, but the problem was, how could he acquire the godly medicine without letting anyone else find out?

As he continued to run, he continued to ponder this problem.

The godly medicine was now forced into a corner. After all, there were too many people here, so no matter how fast it was, it was completely useless.

Ling Han stopped abruptly, and gasped, "Danger!"

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan did not have the slightest doubt about his words, so they immediately stopped, but the others all snorted at him. This brat must be trying to fool them. They have already entered this place for quite a long time—when had they encountered with any kind of danger here?

Although this was the belly of the mountain, there was always

light flickering all around them, allowing their environment to be without a single hint of darkness. Yet in front of them appeared a dark space, as if it was a gigantic maw of a monster waiting to swallow them.

"Xiu," the godly medicine had already run in, and everyone else was right at its heels. But all of a sudden, "peng, peng, peng, peng." It was as if they had ran into an invisible wall, and they were immediately bounced back. Some of them were still fine, only coming out with bleeding wounds. Yet there were others who had been seriously injured, and some of their bones were poking out of their skin.

The godly medicine stopped, and once again used its roots to signal at them, provoking them.

There was no one angry this time, though, because they all came off quite horribly from the crash, and had not yet regained their breaths.

"Bastard!" One of them immediately raced to Ling Han, and used his finger to point at Ling Han's nose, "Since you know there was danger ahead, why didn't you say so early on?"

"Can you be a bit reasonable?" Liu Yu Tong put herself in front of Ling Han, a baleful look on her face, "Didn't Ling Han already tell you there was danger ahead? You all were the ones that didn't stop running!"

"Heng, you didn't say so clearly, who knows what that danger is?" Someone argued illogically, saying loudly, "Ling Han, if you're a man, then step out here. Don't let a woman defend you."

This person was in the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier, and so naturally was completely no match against Liu Yu Tong. But Ling Han was only in the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier, making him think that Ling Han was an easy target.

"Sigh, ugly people do everything to attract attention." Ling Han

lightly pushed Liu Yu Tong to one side.

Liu Yu Tong could not help feeling a bit worried. She was naturally not worried that Ling Han would get hurt, but rather was worried that this guy had too quick a temper, and would kill off this guy that was deliberately provoking him. In that case, it wouldn't be easy to settle things.

"Don't worry. For the sake of Miss Liu, I will be merciful!" The person laughed coldly. The reason why he had deliberately provoked Ling Han was only to make him suffer a bit, so that Ling Han's image in Liu Yu Tong's eyes would be ruined.

"Pa!"

He had just finished talking, and his face had suffered a heavy slap. He could feel a burning pain on his cheek. He stared blankly for a moment, before realizing that he had been slapped by Ling Han. Instantly, he flew into a rage, and similarly raised his palm, striking towards Ling Han.

"Pa," Ling Han's palm once again rose and struck his face. He had moved later yet had hit his target first, and once again gave him a slap. Moreover, the force of the blow was exceptionally strong, causing the man's figure to sway. The palm that he had raised naturally did not hit anything.

He could not believe this reality, and so once again aimed a slap at Ling Han.

"Pa, pa, pa, pa." He was really unlucky this time, as Ling Han slapped his face repeatedly.

Chapter 131: Breaking into the Forbidden Area

"Anyone else not convinced?" Ling Han stopped moving, and smiled at the others.

Everyone else shook their heads. This guy was really too fierce. Anyone who was not in Gushing Spring Tier was completely unqualified to come to blows with Ling Han.

The few Gushing Spring Tier martial artists gave a humph. They had no fear of Ling Han, yet they dreaded facing Liu Yu Tong. Currently, Liu Yu Tong had her sword in hand and was standing guard by Ling Han's side, so no one dared to make any reckless moves.

Most importantly, they did not have the time to bother with Ling Han right now. That stalk of Spiritual Medicine had escaped into the mysterious zone, so the most important thing now was how they were going to tempt it out of there.

More and more people poured out to surround this area on all sides.

This was probably the central zone of the whole underground space. It was circular in shape, and occupied quite a large area. Most importantly, that dark area seemed to be swallowing all of the surrounding light as if it was a solid object, capable of blocking their sight. A person standing at one end would not be able to see the other end at all.

Thankfully, there were enough people who had entered here, and could somewhat ensure that this area was completely surrounded. At least, if that stalk of godly medicine ventured out, they would know instantly.

"What now?" After they had formed a circle around the dark area, everyone asked awkwardly.

"Make sure it's trapped! I don't believe it's never coming back out!" Someone said.

"Are you stupid? That is a plant. It can completely dig its roots inside for a few years to a few hundred years, but what about us? We would have to leave after three days, at most!" Another person rebuked.

"Oh, right!" The person who had spoken earlier said with a bit of embarrassment.

Everyone was frowning in thought. That was definitely a stalk of Spiritual Medicine and may have even reached the legendary godly level, yet they could only stand here and watch. This feeling was really about to drive them crazy.

Some of them left to inform the old monsters waiting outside the opening, hoping that they could have some idea about what to do, while the others continued to stand guard here.

Ling Han slowly neared that invisible wall. He stretched out a hand to feel it.

A very familiar feeling.

A sliver of a smile turned up the corners of Ling Han's lips. Years ago, he had ventured to a lot of ancient historical sites and had witnessed a lot of similar situations. That was also why he had shouted out the warning earlier on.

This was not a wall, but an aura field, an aura field that was at a level above Heaven Tier!

If he was still in Heaven Tier, then based on the studies he had done on this kind of aura field, he could break through it by force and allow himself to pass through, but now.... he was completely unqualified to attempt that kind of thing.

Could it be... that he would have to use that?

Ling Han took out the damaged saber. This was his disciple's

treasured saber, and could also possibly be the only remnant of his disciple that he would be able to find. If he used all the remaining might of the Spiritual Tool in a single explosive burst, he should be able to forcibly use the power on par with Heaven Tier.

But, the problem was, such an explosive burst would also mean the complete end of this treasured saber.

Ling Han hesitated. Moreover, there was another problem. This treasured saber could only explode with such power once, so after he entered, how was he going to get back out?

But after a short moment, he finally made his decision. He had to go in!

Because, there was not only the godly medicine inside. The secret behind that great battle years ago should also be hidden there, and he wanted to find out the reason for that battle. Moreover, if there was really the corpse of an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier inside that had formed this aura field, then who knows, he may have a way to disperse this aura field.

"You two, cover for me," Ling Han said to Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan.

As this area was very big, everyone was standing about ten metres apart from each other to completely surround this area. Thus, Ling Han was standing in between the two girls. It would not be very easy for the people standing at the other side of the two girls to notice him there if they weren't paying attention.

The two girls did not know what he intended to do, but they both nodded, because they knew that this guy had the ability to achieve the impossible.

Ling Han began to revive the treasured saber. Jiang Yue Feng's martial intent originated from him, and though he was extremely weak at the moment, their martial arts were of the same vein. With the stimulation of his divine sense, the martial intent

engraved in the treasured saber began to awaken. "Weng," the seals on the treasured saber began to light up one by one, shining brightly.

However, this was the last light that would be coming from it. Soon, it would become completely ordinary, like any other normal weapon.

Ling Han did not have the slightest bit of hesitation. He used the treasured saber to pierce through the aura field to open up a path for himself.

Even so, he was still in a very emotionally tense state. The treasured saber in his hand was shaking as if it was a fish out of water, and even his body was shaking along with it from the force of its quivering, so much that he was forced to walk in a zigzag pattern.

His figure instantly disappeared into that dark area, and could no longer be seen.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were both dumbstruck with shock. They exchanged a look with each other, and in the other's eyes, they could both see deep astonishment, as well as strong admiration. Was there anything that this youth—no, this man—could not do?

They quickly withdrew their gazes and became alert, focusing on the task of covering for Ling Han to ensure that no one would notice that he had disappeared. Otherwise, even if Ling Han did manage to get any treasure, based on his current ability, he would not be able to keep it.

Sweat covered Ling Han's whole body. There was danger everywhere in this aura field. Years ago, when he was still in Heaven Tier, a single wrong step would mean severe injury for him, and with his current cultivation level of only the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier now, this was practically trying to pull chestnuts out of a roaring fire. Any slightest bit of mistake could

cost his life, and there were definitely no second chances.

Yet this made him even more excited. He was completely focused, and his eyes were extremely bright.

There was usually not much difference between a genius and a maniac.

In his last life, he had put his focus on alchemy. Once he began to concoct alchemical pills, it would be as if he had transformed into a maniac, and this life, he had put his focus on martial arts, and so similarly also had one part of him that was a maniac—though he had not had a chance to display this part of him before.

This kind of situation where danger was surrounding him on all sides caused his whole body to shiver, yet also made him even more excited. To be wavering between the boundaries of life and death allowed him to deeply feel the significance of life, and his divine sense was surging like oceanic waters.

He even had a kind of feeling that perhaps this kind of dangerous place was the only way to train one's divine sense.

The light from the treasured saber began to flicker, and Ling Han experienced a shock. The damage to this treasured saber was far worse than he had imagined. It had only withstood such a short while, and it looked like it was about to go out. Although he enjoyed taking risks, but taking risks and going straight to his death were two different things.

He hurriedly sped up. As he had to calculate the changes within the aura field, his mind was extremely focused, and his mental energy was being expended at a very fast rate. The sweat covering his whole body was dripping down like water, and in a few short moments, had dampened all his clothes and even left behind traces of water underneath his steps.

Yet it was as if he did not feel anything. His eyes were bright, and he continued to advance.

"Weng," the treasured saber gave a final flicker and the light from all the seals vanished all at once, the seals shattering. This meant that the martial intent inside the treasured saber had been completely wiped out. "Hu," Ling Han took a leap and charged out with a loud breath. He had finally managed to make his way out of the area that had been sealed in by the aura field.

Light had again appeared in front of him.

This was an area that was only about a hundred feet in size. In the center, there was a corpse that was sitting in a cross-legged position on the ground, and that stalk of godly medicine was currently working hard on rooting itself into the ground. However, it seemed like the ground here was especially hard. Such a long time had passed, yet the stalk of godly medicine had only managed to insert half of its roots into the ground.

Ling Han's eyes lit up, and he quietly approached the stalk of godly medicine. He did not know if there was a back and face to the godly medicine, but it was obvious that the stalk of godly medicine had not yet noticed that he was there.

Ten steps, eight steps, five steps, three steps!

Ling Han suddenly leaped out, and stretched out a hand to grab that stalk of godly medicine.

Chapter 132: Three Roots

The godly medicine was doing its best to dig its roots into the ground, and had not thought that anyone would have been able to suddenly break into the area sealed off by the aura field. Thus, it was completely caught unprepared by Ling Han, quickly pulling its roots out of the ground, ready to race off again.

But this time, it was one step too late!

Though its movements were indeed very quick, and it had already removed its roots from the ground, Ling Han's hand also managed to grab onto its roots.

"Zi!"

The godly medicine looked like it had experienced a huge fright. Even the flower that was blooming had instantly withdrawn all its petals, and even the stem was twisted and bent. But in the next instant, it suddenly started to struggle fiercely, and it actually flew out of his grasp. "Xiu," it scrambled into the area sealed off by the aura field, and in mere moments, had completely disappeared within the darkness.

Ling Han was astounded. When he uncurled his fist and took a look, there were three torn off roots left in his grip. There was a milky white liquid dripping from the torn off ends of the roots, and all of a sudden, an indescribable refreshing fragrance filled the air, making his whole body relax; it was as if he was about to become as light as a feather and ascend to heaven.

This was the godly medicine!

How could Ling Han dare to waste it? He quickly stuck out his tongue to suck and lick clean that milky white liquid. Any single drop wasted would be an unforgivable sin.

'It's invigorating! So damn invigorating!'

Just a whiff of this godly medicine was enough to make him feel

light as a feather and ready to ascend to heaven. Swallowing the several drops of liquid made this feeling even stronger, as if all the pores of his body were completely open and Spiritual Qi was automatically gushing in, nurturing his entire body. It was a feeling too amazing for mere words.

His divine sense in particular had been greatly augmented, and his blood, flesh, nerves, and bones had all obtained a similar upgrade. His cultivation level, on the other hand, had increased the least.

'The value of the godly medicine is not in upgrading one's cultivation level.' Ling Han thought. He expanded his divine sense and closely observed the changes taking place within his body.

Vitality.

This was the conclusion that he had come to. With the nurturing effects of the godly medicine, his body and its vitality had obtained a great upgrade.

Any martial artist would know that a human being had a mere lifespan of about a hundred years. Only if one managed to break through to Flower Blossom Tier would they be able to break the restrictions of being mortal and gain another two hundred years of life. Otherwise, even if they ate some kind of thousand-year ginseng, it would only aid them in slowing down their aging process at most, and thus allow one to live for another few years.

Why could a Flower Blossom Tier martial artist obtain another two hundred years of life? That was because the vitality within his body had been strengthened.

After Flower Blossom Tier, every breakthrough to a new tier would mean a new transformation, continuing to gain more and more life and vitality, and continuously increasing one's lifespan. Most importantly, there was a lapse after Heaven Tier. Since a Heaven Tier martial artist could reach Shattering Void Tier, then the longest lifespan of a martial artist was limited to a thousand

years.

A godly medicine could achieve the same kind of effect!

He had just swallowed a few drops of the godly fluid, and Ling Han's life and vitality had obtained a great upgrade. As someone who had once been a powerful warrior of Heaven Tier, he could make a rough estimate. He had roughly gained an extra twenty years of life.

Twenty years! Just a few drops!

If he had managed to swallow the whole stalk of godly medicine, how many extra years of life would he have been able to get? A thousand years—that was the lowest estimate. That was equivalent to a powerful warrior of Heaven Tier getting another lifetime to live, and for mortals, that would be another ten lifetimes!

What was the most valuable thing in this world?

It was not cultivation technique, martial arts technique, or wealth. It was life.

That was another extra thousand years of life. This would be enough to drive powerful martial artists of Heaven Tier crazy.

Ling Han stored the three roots of the godly medicine into the Spatial Ring. Increasing lifespan was one of the effects of the godly medicine, and naturally, was the greatest effect, but there were other uses for it—to reform the physical body, and thoroughly clear away the impurities accumulated in one's body!

He had a Heaven Grade Spirit Base, but this did not mean that his body was also Heaven Grade. On the other hand, he had a very normal body. However, after he had begun cultivating the Invincible Heaven Scroll, his physical body had ascended to the level of Body of Dead Tree, and he was able to match those races with special constitution.

In other words, his body was still very far from the level of perfection. At least, there were still three different levels ahead of

him—Body of Rock Cliff, Body of Iron Sheet, and Body of Diamond. Moreover, this was only the first level of the Invincible Heaven Scroll.

'Godly medicine can help one to improve one's physical body. Who knows, I may be able to use it to achieve Body of Rock Cliff!' Ling Han's eyes lit up. If he managed to learn Body of Rock Cliff, not only would his defenses be even stronger than before, he would also be able to condense another two drops of Indestructible True Fluid. He would then have altogether three drops, so he would have even more trump cards in hand.

'It's too bad. If I had an intact stalk of godly medicine, I may be able to soar right up to Body of Iron Sheet, or possibly even Body of Diamond!' He could not help feeling very regretful, but he soon laughed in spite of himself. Then, he said to himself, "A man can't be too greedy. In my last life, I did not see even a Level Nine treasure, and now, at the mere level of the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier, I not only saw a Level Ten godly medicine, I have even obtained three of its roots. If I am still unsatisfied with this, then I really deserve to be struck by lightning."

He cast his eyes at that corpse sitting in the center. He had a feeling that this was the source of everything.

This corpse had obviously experienced a great battle. At least more than a hundred of his bones had been shattered. It was very hard to imagine how he could have managed to continue fighting when he had had so many of his bones broken. Ling Han slowly approached and took a closer look at it, and could not help becoming astonished.

There were actually multiple golden characters on these bones. However, perhaps too much time had passed, or perhaps this person was too heavily injured, for these characters have all practically dimmed.

However, this did not hinder Ling Han from feeling the might of

these golden characters. Rather than saying these were written characters, it would be more appropriate to say they were part of a design—a design that illustrated the powers of nature, and used these characters as a method of displaying them.

'Wait!' Ling Han startled, 'The Invincible Heaven Scroll is also like this, because I have no way to use mere words to recite it out!' He came to a sudden understanding. No wonder he had needed ten thousand years just to comprehend the first level of cultivation technique. That was because it had far surpassed the level of mere words, and had reached a whole new level.

'However, although I have only taken one look, I can confirm that these golden characters on the bones are no match for the Invincible Heaven Scroll.'

The complexity level of the two were completely different.

"But, I can definitely conclude that this is the corpse of a powerful warrior of Shattering Void Tier. If I am able to pry apart even a single shred of his martial intent, it would definitely be very beneficial to me when I break through to Shattering Void Tier in the future!" Ling Han said to himself. He widened his eyes, intending to memorize these golden characters.

"Hong," a red flame suddenly gushed out of the skeleton. It was dazzlingly bright, and there was a wave of heat that surged from it, causing Ling Han to take a few steps back.

A red-colored flame floated above the skeleton, and formed into various shapes, as if it had its own life.

"A Strange Fire!" Ling Han gasped out in surprise.

Strange Fire was a very strange substance born from nature. It could also be described as a type of energy, and it was indescribably valuable to martial artists and alchemists alike, for once a martial artist refined the Strange Fire, he could refine his own physical body, raise his cultivation level, or even develop some fire-type

martial arts technique, and if an alchemist fused with the Strange Fire, he would get a great advantage when concocting alchemical pills.

Why?

Because the most important thing in concocting alchemical pills was fire control. However, a martial artist had limited power, so the heat of the flames one could produce was extremely limited, but the Strange Fire could increase this limit by a considerable number of times and allow an alchemist to gain much more room to exercise his abilities.

For example, for Ling Han, based on his ability, he could concoct alchemical pills as high as Heaven Grade. However, due to the limitations of his cultivation level, he could not do so because he was unable to produce flames with such a high level of heat to heat his alchemy furnace. But, if he were to fuse with a Strange Fire, then while concocting Heaven Grade alchemical pills would still be impossible, there was a great possibility that he would be able to concoct Earth Grade alchemical pills.

Even if it was not possible for him now, by the time he broke through to Gushing Spring Tier, he should be about able to.

Instantly, his eyes lit up.

Chapter 133: Fusion

Ling Han's only feeling now was that his luck in this life was unbelievably, illogically great.

In his last life, although he was an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier, whether it was the godly medicine or the Strange Fire, he had not even managed to see either of them. But in this life, he was only in the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier and he has already seen both these extremely rare items, and had even managed to obtain three roots of the godly medicine.

If he could also manage to make this Strange Fire his own... Ling Han's heartbeat sped up in spite of himself.

The Strange Fire could allow him to concoct alchemical pills of a higher grade than he could at his current cultivation level. The extremely high heat of the Strange Fire could also become one of the hidden cards up his sleeve.

He was a bit curious now. How did this Strange Fire come to be? One has to know that there are many types of Strange Fires, but there was a need to meet certain requirements for each type to form. The most common type of Strange Fire was of course those born in the depths of a volcano, but there were also some special types of Strange Fires that were born within cold places, or even within freezing ice. These were known as Flames of Ice, and they had the ability to freeze living things to death.

But what about this place?

Ling Han could not think of any conditions here that would induce the birth of a Strange Fire, aside from... this corpse in front of him.

This corpse had been an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier when he was alive!

Could it be that an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier was

even able to form Strange Fires?

Ling Han pondered in his thoughts—though his eyes were still fixed upon that Strange Fire wavering in front of him, thinking of how he might be able to make the Strange Fire his own.

If he still had the cultivation level of Heaven Tier, then there would naturally be no problem. He would only need to dominate it by force. But with his current cultivation level of the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier, if he dared to attempt to take it by force, the most likely scenario would be being burnt to ashes.

"Little fire, little fire, come, come, come. You'll stay with me from now on!" Ling Han acted like he was calling over a little puppy.

The Strange Fire continued to morph into various shapes, and ignored him completely.

That was natural. How could the Strange Fire be able to understand human language?

Ling Han gritted his teeth. If he used divine sense, he would be able to skip over using mere words to communicate with the Strange Fire, but the problem was, did he dare to use his divine sense to come into contact with that Strange Fire? The might of the Strange Fire was more than enough to completely burn his divine sense to ashes.

At least, the first level of cultivation technique of the Invincible Heaven Scroll did not include a method to heal one's divine sense.

But, to just give up the Strange Fire like this was not something he could do.

He thought furiously, and suddenly came up with an idea. Could he ask the Black Tower for help? He had a feeling that the level of the Black Tower was above even this ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier, so it should be able to dominate over this Strange Fire.

The problem was that although the Black Tower was currently staying in his body, it definitely had the character of a boss, and usually more or less ignored him. Would it actually help him?

'Let's give it a try.'

He used his divine sense to move the Black Tower, yet Master Black was completely unmoved, and ignored him.

Ling Han was not the slightest bit discouraged, and continued to use his divine sense to "harass" the Black Tower. He had already witnessed it once before. The Black Tower was not an inanimate object.

Finally, the Black Tower gave a light quiver, and emitted a shock wave. He did not feel anything from this shock wave, but there appeared even more shattered seals on the bones of the corpse, completely unable to withstand the shock wave from the Black Tower.

The Strange Fire looked like it was a little girl that had received a huge fright. It suddenly shrank into itself, and was trembling.

Ling Han's heart moved, and beckoned the Strange Fire over. A surprising scene happened. The Strange Fire actually leaped into his hand. What was even more surprising was the fact that Ling Han did not feel any bit of scalding heat on his hand.

The Strange Fire indeed had its own spirit!

Ling Han bravely communicated with the Strange Fire, using his divine sense to transmit his thoughts over, and said, "Little guy, you stay with me from now on, and I will find even more Strange Fires, and let you all fuse together to finally become the most powerful flame of this world!"

Using divine sense to transmit ideas was a communication method that surpassed the limitations of language and race. Any existence with consciousness would be able to understand.

"Yi ya ya, yi ya ya!" The Strange Fire transmitted a blurry

thought, like it was an infant just learning how to speak, so it was very indistinct.

Ling Han finally understood. Though this Strange Fire had developed its own consciousness, its intelligence was too low, as if it was a newborn baby.

Kids... should be very easily duped, right?

Ling Han emitted a kind aura, allowing the Strange Fire enough time to think things through. In truth, he was not lying. In the future, if he encountered a Strange Fire again, he would definitely make a move and continue to fuse the Strange Fires he managed to obtain together, increasing the might of the Strange Fire.

In this world, all living creatures have an instinctive desire to become stronger and closer to perfection. The Strange Fire was no exception. It was unable to cultivate, but it was able to fuse with other Strange Fires to increase its own intelligence and might.

Ling Han did not rush things, and continued to communicate with the Strange Fire.

He had the confidence that the Strange Fire would eventually agree, because the Black Tower had just displayed its might, allowing the Strange Fire to feel that he was a man with power. A talented person would choose a good master to serve, as the saying goes. The intelligence of the Strange Fire was still at a simple level, and could be described as extremely innocent. Thus, if there was a need for it to choose a master, then the first thing it would consider would be the strength of its master.

It was all right even if Ling Han's cultivation level wasn't very high, as long as the Black Tower was awesome enough.

"Yi ya ya, yi ya ya!" The Strange Fire transmitted blurry thoughts and all of a sudden, disappeared into Ling Han's palm, and like a drop of water sinking into sand, it was immediately absorbed and entered Ling Han's body.

Ling Han had never obtained a Strange Fire before, but in his last life, he had managed to acquire the correct method on how to refine and absorb it, and so was not unfamiliar with the next step.

Now that the Strange Fire was in his body, he had two choices.

The first choice was to refine the Strange Fire and erase its intelligence, transforming it into pure energy to nurture and strengthen himself. The second was to fuse with the Strange Fire and preserve its intelligence, something like making his body the new residence of the Strange Fire.

For a martial artist, they would definitely choose the first option without any bit of hesitation. But how could Ling Han break his word, even if it was one given to a Strange Fire? Moreover, he still needed to concoct alchemical pills, so naturally, the best option was to preserve the Strange Fire intact.

He fused with the Strange Fire, and the little guy was coiled in Ling Han's left hand, fusing with Ling Han's soul.

The Black Tower lightly trembled, possessing the might to dominate over everything, allowing the process to be exceptionally smooth.

After a mere half an hour, the fusion process was complete.

Ling Han's eyes snapped open. He stretched open his left hand, and a raging red flame burnt upon his palm. Yet this was not something powered by his Origin Power, but rather came from the Strange Fire.

"Yi ya ya!" The Strange Fire also emitted delighted thoughts, seeming to be very pleased with Ling Han's body.

"Go!" Ling Han waved his left hand, and the Strange Fire instantly left his hand. With a mental command from him, it began to continuously dance and move around on the ground. He beckoned his hand again, and the Strange Fire flew back to him and once again disappeared into his left hand.

"Hahahaha, now my battle prowess has gotten another upgrade. With the raging flames of the Strange Fire, I'd be able to kill even Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists, what more mere Gushing Spring Tier! However, how to get near them is a problem. No one would be foolish enough to allow the Strange Fire to get near them.

However, if I allow the Strange Fire to coil around my fists, or around the blade of my sword, then when others underestimate me due to their own carelessness, there is a real possibility I'd be able to kill them right on the spot!

Hehe, then let's just see who would be so unfortunate."

Ling Han looked once more at the corpse. Due to the several shock waves emanating from the Black Tower, more and more broken seals were appearing on the bones, and the golden characters were no longer identifiable, making him feel a strong regret.

That was the martial intent of a powerful warrior of Shattering Void Tier!

"Forget it, forget it. I'm being too greedy!" Ling Han said, "My gains this time are already indescribably colossal, and what use would the martial intent of an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier be to me now? I am able to soar smoothly all the way to Heaven Tier in the first place.

Now the problem is, how do I get out of here?"

Chapter 134: Return

When Ling Han looked at the corpse, a speculation appeared in his heart.

Years ago, Jiang Yue Feng and so many other elite warriors of Heaven Tier were ganging up on this ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier, and the final result should be that neither side won and everyone died. However, the ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier was too powerful. Even after his death, he managed to create a forbidden zone that no one could enter.

After ten thousand years, even the martial intent of a Shattering Void Tier martial artist would weaken, and in a sudden earthquake that revealed the underground river, various Spiritual Tools floated out on the waters of this underground river, and finally managed to tempt him to this place.

Ling Han did not know who this ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier had been when he was alive, but he fully trusted his disciple. Since Jiang Yue Feng took part in this battle royale, then this ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier must have committed heinous crimes.

If he wanted to leave this place, it was simple!

Because the source of all the restrictions in this place was the martial intent of this ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier, then as long as he managed to erase this person's martial intent, then everything in this place would naturally return to how it used to be.

For others, erasing the martial intent of an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier was absolutely impossible. However, for Ling Han, this would only be a slight effort on his part.

After all, the source of the martial intent was this skeletal corpse, and now that this skeleton was about to collapse, he would be able

to turn it completely into dust as long as he exerted a bit of effort.

Under normal conditions, Ling Han would naturally not do something like destroying someone else's remains, but this guy was very possibly a man that was wicked beyond redemption.

Ling Han did not hesitate for a moment and delivered a single kick.

"Pa," the skeleton that was already fractured in many places in the first place instantly collapsed, and all the golden characters carved on it transformed into an invisible energy that surged out in all directions.

Changes were immediately obvious.

At first, Ling Han was not able to see anything outside the aura field, but now that the martial intent of the Shattering Void Tier warrior was completely gone, the aura field had also vanished without a trace. Thus, his sight was no longer hampered in any way.

"Ling Han!" Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan cried out in surprise at the same time.

Ling Han's eyes cast a look around, yet found that only the two of them were there. There was no sign of any of the others. He was stunned at first, but then swiftly understood—the godly medicine had ran out earlier on, and so must have attracted a lot of people to chase after it. Thus, there was naturally no one else here.

"I've made you wait." He nodded at the two girls.

The two girls gave a reserved smile in response. In truth, the two of them had been very worried about him before, but they did not have such thick skin to so openly display their anxiety.

"Let's go!"

The three of them went back the way they came, yet they had only walked for a short while before feeling a very powerful aura

press down on them. Li Zang Ye and the other old monsters had appeared.

...The remains of the ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier had been destroyed, so the Light of God had also disappeared. There was nothing left to deny these old monsters entry.

These old monsters swiftly passed them by. No matter how highly they thought of Ling Han, they would never think that the disappearance of the Light of God had anything to do with this young man. They all had their attention focused on that stalk of godly medicine, and so of course would not have the time to waste on chit-chat with Ling Han. "Xiu, xiu, xiu," their figures soared, and were soon very far away.

Godly medicine... they had no hope of getting their hands on it.

Or so Ling Han thought. That godly medicine was Level Ten, and though it was not very powerful by itself, the speed at which it could escape was incredible. Even if he still had the cultivation level of his last life, he would have to expend a lot of effort to capture it. The reason why he had been able to succeed in catching hold of it just now had been because there was still the aura field of the ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier pressing down on it, slowing it down. Additionally, that stalk of godly medicine had also been careless, and had not expected there would be anyone who might be able to enter the aura field.

There was no longer any value left in this place, so Ling Han chose to leave without any hesitation. However, there was still a few questions that were left unanswered in his heart.

Why had there suddenly appeared an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier ten thousand years ago? Why had so many Heaven Tier elites suddenly appeared? And, what unforgivable crime had this Shattering Void Tier martial artist committed that caused him to be ganged up on by so many Heaven Tier martial artists, which eventually led to their mutual demise?

No matter how hard he thought, he could find no answer to any of these questions.

Perhaps, this would remain an unanswered mystery forever.

Ling Han regained his composure. This time, he had managed to gain three treasures—a Spatial Ring, three roots of the godly medicine, and a Strange Fire. The Spatial Ring was all right, but the latter two treasures were items that even he in last life would covet furiously.

What a colossal reward.

On their way out, they naturally saw a lot of the others searching all around for the godly medicine. Ling Han did not stop at any moment, of course. He decided to return once they had made their way out of the underground river.

"Xiu," the three of them had just stepped onto the river bank, and they immediately saw that stalk of godly medicine "run" past them. It passed them by swiftly and instantly disappeared into the distance. "Xiu, xiu, xiu." Li Zang Ye and the other old monsters soon appeared, hot on its heels. All of them looked extremely furious. Obviously, they had been played by that stalk of godly medicine.

Ling Han could not help but smile. Now that the Light of God in this place had disappeared, that stalk of godly medicine had lost this natural protection, so it would of course not be staying in this place anymore. Most probably, it would never return here again.

However, his guess was that this stalk of godly medicine wouldn't leave Rain Country either. When he had once again reached Heaven Tier, he could come back here to look around. Who knows, he might be able to obtain this stalk of godly medicine.

After the Light of God had disappeared, the Level Nine Spiritual Tools all left the underground space at a quicker rate. There was no way to obtain those that still retained their spirit, and there was

not much value in getting those without spirit. Ling Han did not want to continue staying here, so after asking the two girls for their opinion, the three of them returned to the Imperial City together.

When Wu Song Lin saw that Ling Han had returned so quickly, he could not help feeling very surprised. But, at the same time, he also breathed out a sigh in relief because for an old man like him, taking care of the two little girls was indeed a headache-inducing task—Hu Niu was too wild, so he could not hand her over to be taken care of by servants. The only option left was for him to take care of her, and babysitting her for a mere few days was enough torment to cause him to lose a few pounds of weight.

"Ling, Ling!" When Hu Niu spotted Ling Han, she instantly pounced on him and hung herself from Ling Han's shoulders, her little face bearing an overjoyed grin.

Ling Han could not help but laugh. It was really rare to hear this little girl not say "meat"; looks like she had indeed missed him. However, he had barely completed this thought before hearing Hu Niu exclaim, "Meat! Meat! Meat!"

Fine, the deep-set character of a glutton was difficult to change.

"Let's go eat meat!" He picked Hu Niu up, while his other hand held onto Ling Zi Xuan, and left with the two little girls in tow.

Liu Yu Tong naturally followed him, but Li Si Chan could not be so willful. She could only reluctantly stay behind to assist Wu Song Lin because Wu Song Lin had just recently achieved a new level of comprehension and intended to concoct a type of Black Grade high level alchemical pill. If things went smoothly, he would attempt to concoct an Earth Grade alchemical pill.

The ingredients necessary for the concoction of an Earth Grade alchemical pill were too expensive. Every time the furnace exploded, it meant a colossal waste of resources. Even a high-ranking person like Wu Song Lin dared not begin the concoction

process so easily. He needed to have a certain level of confidence that the furnace would not explode.

This was also one of the reasons why there was no Earth Grade alchemist in Rain Country. Due to there not being enough chances to try concocting Earth Grade alchemical pills, how could it be possible that anyone would succeed in becoming an Earth Grade alchemist?

Of course, this was also related to the environment in Rain Country, where Earth Grade ingredients were unbelievably expensive. However, in bigger places, although Earth Grade ingredients were still very valuable, their value was not to the extent in Rain Country—Heaven Grade ingredients were the really priceless ingredients there!

Ling Han carried Hu Niu while Liu Yu Tong held onto Ling Zi Xuan's hand. The four of them went and had a great feast at a restaurant. It was all on the tab of the Third Imperial Prince anyways, so money was no issue.

After they had their fill, Liu Yu Tong and Ling Zi Xuan left. They had their own accommodations. Moreover, Ling Zi Xuan also needed to cultivate, so how could she keep clinging onto Ling Han? After Ling Han had returned to his own courtyard, he took out a root of the godly medicine, and prepared to refine it.

Chapter 135: Thoroughly Clearing Away the Filth in the Body

He was a little loath to part with it!

Ling Han did not immediately refine it. This kind of a godly medicine had the life-saving abilities of growing flesh on bones and reviving a dead man. For him to simply refine it like this, he really felt a bit hesitant to make a move.

However, this was only a moment's hesitation.

He had already learnt Body of Dead Tree, and thus had condensed a single drop of Indestructible True Fluid. This had the incredible effect of saving his life. Although its effects were a bit weaker when compared with the godly medicine, it had the advantage of being able to be condensed again after being used.

Moreover, as long as he managed to learn the Body of Rock Cliff of the Invincible Heaven Scroll, he would be able to condense another two drops of the Indestructible True Fluid.

...There would be no more godly medicine once it was eaten, while the Indestructible True Fluid could be continuously condensed. It was obvious which one was more profitable.

Additionally, the godly medicine could give his physical body a complete upgrade, strengthening his core and banking up his Origin Power. These were all solid benefits for him. Ling Han did not lack comprehension of cultivation. What he lacked was time, and the godly medicine could compensate for his lack of time very well.

'In this life, luck is on my side!' Ling Han tossed the root of the godly medicine into his mouth. One bite, and he could feel a strong fragrance spread out in his mouth, and there was a light, airy feeling in his whole body, as if he would be flying at any moment.

'Invigorating!' He continued to circulate the Invincible Heaven

Scroll while directing the medicinal effects to spread into every part of his body.

Changes were immediately apparent.

He could clearly feel his cells strengthening, his bones becoming sturdier, and the blood flowing in his veins becoming more energetic, as if there was an ultimate warrior thoroughly clearing away all the filth accumulated in his body. Very soon, a black layer of filth appeared on his body. This black layer was made up of the impurities accumulated in his body which, with the effects of the godly medicine, were now forced out of his body.

Don't underestimate this.

When a martial artist cultivated, that was a process of upgrading one's physical body. When he reached Flower Blossom Tier, there would be a change in the nature of his body, casting off his mortal body and evolving into a higher level of existence. Just like a rock that, with continuous grinding and refining, slowly becomes a beautiful piece of jade.

Forcing out the impurities in one's body was equivalent to refining oneself, and speeding up the process of "transforming into jade".

This change was very slight, but the effects were extremely obvious.

Ling Han could immediately feel the Spiritual Qi entering his body was obviously circulating faster than before.

That was natural. Since the impurities in his veins have decreased, Spiritual Qi could flow throughout his body at a faster pace. And that was not the only benefit. Now that the circulation of Spiritual Qi had become faster, when he began circulating Origin Power in future, it would also be a faster process than before.

What it meant was clear—the faster Origin Power was being

circulated, the greater the destructive power behind his blows. This was a solid upgrade.

His life and vitality were continuously becoming stronger, and there was also a certain level of upgrade to his divine sense, making him experience the feeling of having a clear head. When he pondered, his thoughts were forming at a faster pace and were clearer than before.

Exhilarating! Exhilarating! Exhilarating!

After about half a day, he had completely refined the root of the godly medicine.

"What a pity that there is practically no increase to my cultivation level!" Ling Han sighed. But it was all right. Previously, he had taken advantage of the opportunity and embezzled the resources provided by the Imperial Family of Rain Country as well as the Eight Great Clans to concoct a large amount of alchemical pills that could help him increase his cultivation level, so he was not missing out.

He took out the second root of the godly medicine, swallowed it, and continued the refining process.

"Hong long long." This time, he could sense a thunderous noise within his body, as every bone was groaning and crashing one into another. This time, the effects of the medicine had gone even deeper, and it was stimulating a great change within the bones of his body.

This was not so exhilarating. On the other hand, the remolding of his bones was an agonizing process, as if his whole body was being shattered to be rebuilt once more. The pain caused him to suck on his teeth, and sweat poured down like rain from his body.

"Urgh... Ah..." He released a series of low groans. "Peng, peng, peng." Very quickly, there was a banging on the door. It was Hu Niu who had heard his moans of pain and had thus come to check

up on him.

"I'm fine!" Ling Han said through gritted teeth.

"Peng!"

But it was obviously completely pointless to say this to Hu Niu. The violent nature of the little girl had activated, as she crashed in. After rolling around on the ground once, she looked at Ling Han simply. When she saw that he was still able to sit in a cross-legged position, though he had sweated a lot, she immediately bared her teeth in a grin.

What a heartless little girl.

Ling Han did not have the time to bother with her at the moment. The Invincible Heaven Scroll continued to circulate and his body was still absorbing the effects of the medicine to remold the bones in his body.

The agony surged continuously like oceanic waters, crashing into him so hard that he felt like he could faint at any moment. But if he actually lost consciousness, he would not be able to circulate the Invincible Heaven Scroll anymore, so the effects of the medicine could only circulate throughout his body instinctively and without any conscious guidance from him. In that case, the effects would naturally be much weaker.

Most importantly, he wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to force his body all the way up to Body of Rock Cliff. That meant that he needed to circulate the Invincible Heaven Scroll, and absorb the effects of the medicine based on the secret arts in the Heaven Scroll.

'I shall endure it! Endure it! Endure it! Endure it!'

Ling Han gritted his teeth. Veins were popping up on his head and his neck. There soon appeared a puddle of water on the spot he was seated at, and it seemed as if he had just been fished out of the water as both his eyes looked a bit empty.

He was also eating godly medicine this time, yet why was there such disparity between the first and second time?

Ling Han let his thoughts run wild to distract him from the agony he was experiencing. He thought about his father who was still in Gray Cloud Town. He also thought about Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan. He even thought about his last life.

He did not know how much time had passed, but that strong feeling of agony finally began to weaken, eventually completely disappearing.

Ling Han breathed out a long sigh of relief. Just now, he had even had the thought of giving up, but thankfully, he had persevered. He looked down at his body. Impurities had also been forced out this time, but they were not black in color, but rather white.

These were the impurities from within his bones.

Thoroughly clearing out the filth in body. It did live up to its name.

The first portion of the godly medicine improved his body and flesh, and the second portion refined his bones, then what about the third portion?

Ling Han breathed out and took out the third portion of the godly medicine.

"Smells nice! Smells nice!" Hu Niu immediately pounced over, her eyes fixed upon the godly medicine, saliva nearly dripping out of her mouth.

"Little girl, you haven't begun cultivating yet, so it would be too wasteful for you to eat this. Moreover, the medicinal effects are too strong, and you'll get constipated," Ling Han said with a laugh.

"Eat!" Hu Niu grabbed Ling Han's arm and tugged repeatedly, acting like a spoiled child.

"No!" Ling Han shook his head firmly. There was no use acting

pitiful.

Hu Niu stretched out her little head, and gave a strong struggle, aiming a bite at the godly medicine. She had struggled too strongly, and Ling Han actually lost his grip on her in a moment of carelessness—her mouth had bitten onto the godly medicine.

'Oh no!'

If it was bitten by this glutton, then there wouldn't even be scraps left behind.

Indeed, he immediately felt a little tongue licking at his hand. That was Hu Niu who had still not had enough and was gnawing at his hand like it was a chicken's leg.

This prodigal child!

Ling Han sighed. That was godly medicine, and he had in total only obtained three portions, yet one portion was actually wasted on this little girl.

"Xi xi!" Hu Niu turned back around and gave him a large grin. When Ling Han saw this, he couldn't manage to get angry even if he wanted to. Who asked him to cry out so horribly just now and alert this little girl? When it came down to it, the little girl had barged in because she had been worried about him after all.

"Forget it. Hopefully, you can withstand such powerful medicinal effects!" Ling Han sighed and carried the little girl out. He was in desperate need of a bath. There was filth covering his whole body—so much that he felt horrible just from smelling it.

After taking a bath, Ling Han took a look inside his body, and revealed a satisfied smile when he saw the results.

His body had obtained a great upgrade this time round. Though he had yet to reach the level of Body of Rock Cliff, his bones had become as strong as steel, and his skin had become tougher too. It should not be too far to go before he reached Body of Rock Cliff.

Most importantly, there was a huge upgrade to his life and vitality. He only felt full of energy, and so no matter what he did, he felt full of enthusiasm.

The next morning, Ling Han vaguely felt that something was a bit off. When he thought things over, he finally realized something—Hu Niu had not awakened yet. Usually, by this time, the little girl would be awake, clinging to him and yelling out her "Meat, meat, meat!"

Chapter 136: Egg

A glutton actually forgot to eat—that was equivalent to the possibility of the sun rising from the west.

Ling Han's first thought was that there was definitely something off with the little girl. Something must have happened.

...She had just eaten a portion of the godly medicine yesterday, and based on her current cultivation level of mere Body Refining Tier, such a nutritious kind of medicine must have been too powerful for her.

Ling Han went to the little girl's room. At first, she slept beside Ling Han, but according to Liu Yu Tong, even if Hu Niu was still very small, she was still a girl, so she had cleaned up a room for her.

When he entered the room and his eyes swept over it, he instantly got a shock.

Because there was absolutely no sign of the little girl. Instead of a little girl, there was an egg on the bed.

That's right. It was an egg, and it was an extremely big one too. It was wide enough to fit in a man's arms, and about as tall as half the average height of a man. The egg was as white as snow, but there were multiple golden patterns covering the entire egg.

Ling Han was dumbstruck with shock.

Even if the little girl went through a complete transformation and became a young beautiful fairy, he would be able to accept the reality after experiencing a slight shock. But a living human being actually transformed into an egg... what could this mean?

He did not have any doubt that Hu Niu was currently inside this huge egg, because there was no disturbance to the restriction he had set up. Obviously, no one had entered or left the area.

Hu Niu's origins were extremely strange in the first place, after all. She could increase her cultivation level by consuming large amounts of food, which was a very shocking thing. Thus, though the effects of the godly medicine were unbelievably powerful, it was not impossible for the little girl to refine it, and this was also why Ling Han had not been overly worried the day before.

But a hen became a duck, and a little girl became an egg. This was... extremely bizarre!

Ling Han approached the egg. He began observing it, but could not find any clues from his observation. He stretched out his hand and placed it on the egg. He discovered something very surprising—the egg was emanating high heat, as if it was about to burn up at any moment.

That was indeed very possible.

He picked up the "egg" and placed it on the floor to avoid the whole courtyard turning into ashes if it did start burning up.

Where did this little girl actually come from?

Ling Han was getting more and more curious. In his last life, he had stood at the peak of martial arts and had ventured to a considerable number of ancient historical sites, as well as had a considerable understanding of the various races with special constitutions. Yet, he had never heard of any race that could increase their cultivation level simply through consuming food, and could even transform into an egg.

He did not dare to break open the egg to check up on Hu Niu either. Although he had never seen such a thing, but he could refer to birds and knew that it was necessary for chicks to break open their eggs on their own. If he cracked the egg open, then that would definitely be an impatient move, and only cause harm to Hu Niu.

He had just been reborn not too long ago, yet he had actually

encountered so many bizarre events. Thankfully, he had a healthy heart, or he would have already had a heart attack from a series of so many shocks.

"Forget it. From the looks of it, it's quite peaceful, so the little girl should be fine. Then, I'll just let her continue... incubating!" When he said the word 'incubating', he could not help but show a weird expression on his face.

Every morning after waking up, he would go seek Mo Gao out for a discussion on the art of the sword. This had become his daily habit. Because he had been away the last few days, he could not join Mo Gao for a discussion, but now that he was back, he naturally went to Mo Gao's courtyard.

The two of them discussed the art of the sword while simultaneously verifying each other's standpoints, so they both improved drastically.

"In less than three days, I should be able to break through. Tomorrow, I will be entering seclusion," Mo Gao announced suddenly.

Ling Han was at first stunned, then he raised his clasped hands in Mo Gao's direction and said, "My congratulations to you, Teacher Mo."

This sword maniac was a genius in the first place. However, he had fixed his target too high, placing his aim directly on the Sword Heart and thus causing his cultivation to stagnate for these ten plus years. In other words, any other person needed only get ten marks to advance one level. But Mo Gao wanted to get a thousand marks and directly advance one hundred levels. As a result, he was naturally stuck where he had begun.

However, after his many discussions with Ling Han, the grand door of sword arts that had only opened a single sliver to Mo Gao was now completely wide open, and he had all of a sudden attained a drastic improvement. As the saying goes, good preparation is the

key to success. Thus, he had attained the comprehension he needed to break through in this short period of time.

Ling Han did not feel anything was strange about this. When compared with the difficulty of forming Sword Heart, breaking through to Gushing Spring Tier was a piece of cake.

This sword maniac had finally found his way, and at least before Spiritual Infant Tier, he would not encounter any bottlenecks in his cultivation. He could completely depend on his comprehension of the concept of Sword Heart, and had boundless prospects ahead of him.

Ling Han was happy for him as well. He had secretly decided that once this teacher of his had reached Spiritual Pedestal Tier, he would teach him a cultivation technique.

Since all the cultivation techniques in Rain Country were at most only Level Five, there was no way to peek into the mysteries of Flower Blossom Tier. Otherwise, there would have at least popped up one or two geniuses in the Eight Great Clans that managed to break through to Flower Blossom Tier after so many years, right?

He did not know what fateful encounter the Qi Clan had come across that allowed them to possess a powerful warrior of Flower Blossom Tier, which secured their place as ruler of this country.

'...Yi, could it be the power of the nation?'

Ling Han had never been an emperor before, so he was not very familiar with the concept, but when he recalled that in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, only the Imperial Clan had a powerful warrior of Flower Blossom Tier to oversee things, then it should be related to being the ruler of a nation.

Before this, Ling Han only knew that stimulating the power of the nation could increase one's battle prowess, like Qi Yong Ye. He was only the son of a king, and so could only stimulate the power of a single city, but his Son of Heaven Fist Technique was still very

powerful.

If the ruler of a nation used the Son of Heaven Fist Technique to stimulate the power of an entire nation, then that would definitely be far more powerful.

But could the power of the nation also increase one's cultivation level, allowing one to break through to Flower Blossom Tier, and complete the step of casting off one's mortal body?

Ling Han shook his head. Whatever, he didn't need to worry about cultivation techniques anyways.

After leaving Mo Gao's place, it was already about noon. Ling Han did not want to cook when it was only him, so he went out of the Academy and visited a restaurant to have a meal. He had not been in the Imperial City for a very long time, thus he would pick a different restaurant every time he ate out to try out which restaurant had the best meals.

However, it seemed that he was a natural magnet for trouble. He had just finished placing his order and was waiting to be served when he saw a company of four come upstairs.

It was mealtime currently, and this restaurant was obviously very popular, because there was no empty seat in sight. Thus, the company of four stood at the head of the stairs, casting their eyes all over the place, seemingly looking for an empty table.

A waiter approached them and seemed to explain something to them. Yet after a short while, he walked over to Ling Han, and said, "Honorable customer, could you give up your table?"

Ling Han frowned, and asked, "Why do I have to give up my table?"

"Er... Honorable customer, do you not know the four of them? That's Young Master Kong and his friends. They are not to be trifled with. I am asking this for your own good." The waiter looked at Ling Han with a shocked expression, looking like he was

very surprised that Ling Han did not know this Young Master Kong.

"No, and I don't intend to know," Ling Han shook his head. "Serve the dishes quickly. Perhaps after I have dined for about an hour, I'll leave, and there will be an empty spot by then."

About an hour?

The waiter gave a bitter smile. If he really had to wait for about an hour, then that Young Master Kong would probably have their restaurant torn apart. However, first come first serve. That was the most basic rule. If the restaurant could not even guarantee this, then who would want to come here to dine in future?

He could only force himself to speak with Young Master Kong. After another while, that Young Master Kong and his friends approached Ling Han.

"Poor fool, take this one hundred silver coins and get lost," Young Master Kong commanded, a disdainful expression on his face.

Chapter 137: Bastard

A monetary note was tossed onto the table. It was indeed a monetary note worth a hundred silver coins.

Ling Han gave a faint smile. Since there was someone deliberately giving him money, then he would of course not refuse. He said, "Waiter, did you hear that? Someone is treating me to a meal, so why don't you quickly serve some fine wine and dishes?"

"F***!" Young Master Kong was extremely furious. This brat accepted his money and was still not getting lost? He placed his right hand onto the table and threatened, "Poor fool, if you don't want to get beaten up, you'd better get lost quickly!"

In the Imperial City, in a public place, even a prodigal young master like him would not dare to openly threaten the life of someone else.

Ling Han turned his head to look left, then turned to look right, and asked, "Where is this barking coming from? Wang, wang, wang, what an irritating noise!"

A "puchi!" sound was heard. Someone could not hold back their laughter at this. The laugh was a crisp sound, having a captivating feeling that could not be described by mere words, and instantly caused quite a number of people to turn around to look at the source of the laugh. The one who had laughed was an extremely beautiful young woman, about twenty-three or twenty-four years old. Her black hair cascaded down her shoulders like a waterfall, and her features were clearly defined as if they were shaped by a knife. This woman had a very unique bearing.

Because she was seated, there was no way to see how shapely her figure was, but when one saw how her breasts were big enough to block one's eyes from continuing to move down the rest of her body, one should know how impressive her figure should be.

All of a sudden, everyone was stunned by her beauty. What was even stranger was that such an outstanding beauty had been sitting here for so long, yet they had only realized it now. But they quickly realized the reason why—there was a piece of light muslin on the table of this beauty. Most likely, when she came in, her face was veiled. It was only when she began to eat that she removed her veil, so she did not attract much attention.

Moreover, this beauty was definitely not an ordinary person. There were three large, sturdy men dressed all in black seated together with her at the same table. They did not have any particular expression on their faces, but it was obvious they were her bodyguards, because only the beauty was holding chopsticks, while the other three were sitting very alertly. The reason why they had not been standing behind the beauty was obviously not to attract unnecessary attention.

However, their cold expressions and uniform clothing was enough to attract attention.

Young Master Kong was also staring at the beauty, and could not help reveal a perverted expression. He asked the beauty, "Beauty, what's your name?"

The beauty did not answer, but one of the men in black waved a hand at Young Master Kong, as if he was shooing away a fly.

Young Master Kong had the feeling like he was about to go crazy. Just now, a young man actually dared to ignore him, and now another person was waving his hand at him to chase him away. What was going on here? Could it be that after a single night, the Imperial City was no longer the Imperial City he knew?

"How dare you be so insolent towards Young Master Kong!" one of the friends of Young Master Kong stepped out and shouted loudly at that man in black.

There was no change in expression on the man's face. He only took out a golden plaque from his robes, and once again made a

shooing motion.

"Heng, whatever plaque that is, it's useless. Our Young Master Kong-"

"Pa!"

That scoundrel friend was just about to brag about Young Master Kong yet never thought that he would be suddenly given a heavy slap. He looked at Young Master Kong in disbelief, because the one who had slapped him was precisely Young Master Kong.

"If you f***** want to die, don't drag me along with you!" Young Master Kong cursed at him furiously, and then turned to the man in black. His expression had instantly become very respectful, and said, "This Master, please forgive this Kong Wen Hui for his blindness."

"Hiss...!" All the people in the restaurant were astonished. Had this Young Master Kong been bewitched or something like that? He had first slapped his own lackey, and was now taking the initiative to apologize? There was only one possibility then—the other group had a far bigger background than the Kong Clan, so even the young master of the Kong Clan could only bow his head humbly in front of them.

The man in black still did not speak, and only waved his hand a third time.

This time, Young Master Kong dared not disobey. He left with his tail between his legs, and did not even take back the monetary note worth a hundred silver coins.

He was already scared out of his wits.

Everyone could not help but look at that plaque. What kind of identity did that plaque represent that even Young Master Kong was scared off by it?

"Ah, I remember now!" one of the customers exclaimed in surprise, but he immediately used his hands to cover his mouth, a

terrified expression appearing on his face.

"Hey, hey, hey. Just tell me quietly. What does that plaque represent?"

"That's right, tell us."

The man who shouted just now looked over at them, but when he saw that there was no visible reaction from the three men in black—as if they could care less—he said bravely, "They are the palace guards, the Black Cloud Army!"

All of a sudden, the entire restaurant became completely silent.

The words "Black Cloud Army" seem to have power by themselves, causing everyone to tremble in fear.

And that was exactly the truth of the matter. The Black Cloud Army were the imperial guards of the Imperial Family, and they were the most elite unit. All the members of this army were elite martial artists. More importantly, they had the power to kill without punishment!

In the Imperial City, even the Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites of the Eight Great Clans could not simply murder anyone they disliked. As the saying goes, a country has its laws and a family its rules. However, the Black Cloud Army could do so as long as they thought that a person could possibly become a threat to the safety of the Imperial Family.

Thus, even a person as arrogant as Young Master Kong could only run away as fast as he could. Otherwise, if he was killed, he'd have died for nothing.

Everyone else became even more curious. Who exactly was this outstandingly beautiful woman that she would have three members of the Black Cloud Army stay by her side to protect her? From her looks, she was alluring, voluptuous, and very mature, so she should not be an innocent maiden anymore. Thus, she should not be a princess or something of the sort.

Could she be one of the Imperial Consorts?

When they thought about this, everyone immediately cast their eyes elsewhere. This was the Emperor's woman. If anyone dared to look at her for too long, who knows, they might have their eyes removed. Yet why had a woman of the Rain Emperor left the palace?

Ling Han swept his eyes over the three members of the Black Cloud Army and that beautiful woman, and was slightly surprised—those three members of the Black Cloud Army were only in Gushing Spring Tier, yet the beautiful woman was actually in Spiritual Ocean Tier!

A woman in her early twenties was already in Spiritual Ocean Tier? That was really too unbelievable.

This woman should have used some kind of medicine to preserve her beauty, and her real age should be at least twenty-seven or twenty-eight. Otherwise, she should not be a citizen of Rain Country, but must have come from some major sect outside of Rain Country. That would not be strange then.

One by one, the customers all settled their bills and left. To be in the same room as three members of the Black Cloud Army that could kill without suffering any kind of punishment—just thinking about it made their hair stand on ends and lose any appetite they might have had.

Ling Han's dishes were also served. He began to eat without care.

Sounds of music were suddenly heard, and soon footsteps could be heard coming up the stairs. Very soon, the owners of the footsteps had arrived on the second floor. They were an old man and a young girl. The old man had a slightly stooped figure and had a goatee, while his hands held onto a huqin. [TL/N: Huqin - Chinese two-stringed fiddles, with snakeskin-covered wooden soundbox and bamboo bow with horsehair bowstring]

The young girl was dressed in coarse clothing, but her poor attire was unable to hide her shapely figure. She wore no make-up, but her face was refreshingly beautiful and extremely gorgeous. In terms of beauty, she was only slightly inferior when compared to Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan.

"Zhiya, zhiya", the old man found a spot and sat, then began to play his huqin, whereas the young girl began to sing along to the music. Her singing voice was sinuous and melodious, causing anyone who listened to be unknowingly captivated by her voice.

Even the three members of the Black Cloud Army who had not spoken or smiled at all could not help but show moved expressions and captivated eyes when they heard the naturally beautiful singing voice of the young girl.

Ling Han, meanwhile, gave a sigh. Looks like he would not be able to enjoy this meal in peace.

...He had sensed killing intent!

Chapter 138: Assassination

The old man looked up and when his eyes fell upon the beautiful woman, the music took a different note.

The music that had been sinuous like springtime in the month of March and a young girl that had been declaring words of love to her beloved had become harsh in a single instant, as if announcing the marching of military troops on their way to attack their enemies, resounding with a predatory air.

The young girl had also changed. The song she was singing changed, and she sang a song of inciting strength and attack. At the same time, she began to dance as if she was practicing sword techniques, and though there was no sword in her hands, she displayed the grandness of a skilled swordsman.

The area she was moving in became wider and wider, and she got nearer and nearer to that beautiful woman.

The song resounded, and like an ocean's wave, captured the hearts and minds of those who listened. The only unexpected factor was Ling Han. His divine sense was not only stronger than any normal Element Gathering Tier martial artist, he also possessed the martial heart of a Heaven Tier elite, and was most able to protect his heart and mind.

So the real intention was revealed now?

The young girl had neared the beautiful woman in her dance when her right hand suddenly waved and a bright sword appeared in her hand, which swept towards the beautiful woman.

With this one slash, she looked like a fairy descended from the heavens, too beautiful for words.

"I already expected it would be you people!" It was at this moment that the beautiful woman suddenly slammed her hand onto the table. "Pa," and a table made of high-quality rosewood was

instantly turned into pieces. The broken pieces of wood shot towards the young girl as if they were arrows shot from a bow, and though the beautiful woman had made her move later, the broken pieces of wood reached the young girl first.

"Ding, ding, ding." The young girl waved her sword and parried away the pieces of wood. However, it was also at this moment that the three members of the Black Cloud Army came back to themselves. They all wore expressions of shock, because they had reacted much too slowly. If they had been the targets of the young girl's assassination plot, then they would have died from their carelessness.

"How dare you!" the three men shouted furiously in unison as they all drew their respective weapons and charged at the young girl.

Who cares if you are an outstandingly beautiful woman? Anyone who dared to make a move against an Imperial Consort would have committed a crime of high treason and would have all their relatives executed with them as punishment.

"Three smelly bugs!" the young girl's eyes turned cold, her sword swept forward in an arc, and instantly, three flashes of Sword Qi shot out.

"What?!" the three members of the Black Cloud Army gasped in shock. Three flashes of Sword Qi meant that this young girl was already in the ranks of rulers. The young girl was obviously a high level Gushing Spring Tier elite, and the terrifying power of her Sword Qi was not something that could be withstood by these three men. As the Sword Qi danced unhindered, "pu, pu, pu," a wound appeared on the chests of the three men, and blood gushed forth. They were killed in a single instant.

The young girl gave a light whistle, and continued to attack the beautiful woman.

"Murder!" Those few customers who had remained in the

restaurant finally came back to reality and they all shouted in shock as they all fled downstairs.

"Little Sister, so you people are the ones who used the Falling Flower Command to lure this big sister out?" The beautiful woman giggled. She did not stand up, but simply used her bare hands to defend herself and solidly blocked the young girl's sharp blade.

When one looked closely, there was a pale light wrapped around both her hands. Every time her hands clashed with the sword, the light would brighten and block any damage that could possibly be inflicted by the sharp blade.

The young girl did not respond. She simply increased the power of her attacks, and every slash was swift and fierce.

"Little Sister, which one is your master?" The beautiful woman looked very calm. She was in Spiritual Ocean Tier, and was completely dominant over the young girl who was only in Gushing Spring Tier, so she naturally appeared to be completely at ease.

"Qiang!" The old man who had been playing the huqin by the side stopped playing his music. He pounced and also leaped towards the beautiful woman. He waved his right hand, and a few strings of the huqin flew forwards to coil around the beautiful woman.

"Ancient Thousand Silk Threads?" The beautiful woman narrowed her eyes before smiling softly, and said, "You are not this big sister's type. Big sister does not like to be tied up by you. If you were a handsome man, then big sister would be a little interested."

These two people were obviously assassins. There was no change in their expressions when faced with their opponent's "flirting". On the other hand, their attacks were quick and forceful, and they moved in well-practiced coordination. However, they were both only in Gushing Spring Tier. Even if they were in the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, how could they be a match against a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite?

The beautiful woman only slightly increased the effort she was putting into this battle, and it was enough to cause these two people to face danger on all sides.

"Never thought about it, right? I betrayed and left the Falling Flower Court, yet my cultivation level has broken through to Spiritual Ocean Tier!" she laughed lightly. Her figure moved lightly, but her attacks became faster and more powerful. If a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite became serious, how could mere Gushing Spring Tier martial artists stand against her?

The two assassins were instantly in dire straits, and looked to be trapped in a very difficult situation.

"I only need one person to go back and report!" the beautiful woman revealed a cold killing intent, "Go and tell that b****, Hua Wu Yue, that when I break through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier, that would be the day that b**** has to surrender her head!"

Her killing intent blazed, and her attacks were even more ruthless.

The old man and the young girl exchanged a look before they each stretched out a hand to hold onto each other. Instantly, there was an indescribable power circulating, and there actually appeared an inconceivable increase to their battle prowess, which helped them withstand the beautiful woman's killing moves one after another.

Ling Han was astounded as he thought, 'Was this "Two Hearts Beat as One"?' This was a secret technique that could force out ten times the amount of potential two people had. However, when the technique's effects ended, these two people who had used the technique would experience a setback in their cultivation levels. This technique belonged to the last resort category of martial arts techniques.

However, the "Two Hearts Beat as One" technique had very strict requirements for its use. The two people who used this technique

had to be siblings, but there was such a large gap between the ages of these two people, so how could it be possible that they were siblings?

While he was still feeling surprised, the two assassins obviously knew they were no match for the beautiful woman. Only managing to withstand a few attacks from the beautiful woman, they suddenly leaped out the window, fleeing off into the distance.

The beautiful woman chased after them to and stood by the window, watching the spot the two assassins had vanished at, but made no move to continue her pursuit.

The people who had been walking on the streets had heard the window break and they all turned to look up. However, what they saw was an extremely beautiful woman standing from the window. As a light breeze blew, her silken garments were tightly wrapped around her shapely figure, clearly outlining her voluptuous body, and the passers-by could not help but salivate at this sight.

This was indeed an extremely captivating beauty!

The beautiful woman turned back round and cast a look at Ling Han, and said, "Little Brother, you are really quite brave not to flee."

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "I'm so scared that my legs have become weak. Even if I want to flee, I can't."

"Giggle!" the beautiful woman covered her mouth and laughed. The beauty trembled in her humor, and had an indescribable allure to her. "Big sister is fond of your type—having a sweet mouth for flattery and a good sense of humor. What a pity that big sister is already married!"

Her figure suddenly leaped out the window, completely ignoring the corpses of the three members of Black Cloud Army.

The most vicious is a woman's heart!

Ling Han shivered internally. Just now, that beautiful woman

had actually borne killing intent towards him, but for some reason, gave up on her intention.

Just having a simple meal and things could become so hair-raising. This really made him lost for words.

Ling Han rose up from his seat and left. This had nothing to do with him. He did not have the free time to concern himself with unnecessary matters.

This was an area directly under the control of the Emperor and three members of the Black Cloud Army had died, so it was a very serious matter. In mere moments, the whole Imperial City was completely on alert. One infantry troop after another was seen patrolling the streets, searching for the location of the two assassins.

After Ling Han returned to the Hu Yang Academy and entered his courtyard, his brow immediately creased into a frown.

Someone had touched his restriction and had entered his courtyard!

"Shua," a bright light flashed, and a sword was pointing right at his chest. A beautiful young girl appeared. "Don't make any noise, or else I will kill you!"

Chapter 139: Rookie

This young girl actually happened to be one of the assassins at the restaurant.

Ling Han's expression became strange. This was really too much of a coincidence, wasn't it? This young girl was actually hiding at his place. But when he thought about it, Hu Yang Academy was indeed the best place for them to avoid their pursuers. Moreover, this was the most secluded, desolate corner of Hu Yang Academy, so it wasn't really too much of a coincidence that this pair of assassins had found their way here.

He smiled calmly, and said, "I do not like someone pointing their sword at me."

"Heng, even if you don't like it, you'll have to like it now!" the young girl declared a little naively, not showing the slightest bit of sign that she was a cold-blooded assassin.

Ling Han stretched out a finger, pressed down on the sword's blade, and said, "You have just used 'Two Hearts Beat as One' technique. Do you even have a single percent of your battle prowess left?" His physical body had already surpassed the level of Body of Dead Tree, and was nearing the level of Body of Rock Cliff. Even if he was not circulating Origin Power to increase his defenses, there was no way the sharp blade of the sword was able to wound his finger.

He gave a flick of his finger, and the sword immediately swept to another side.

"This is much better." The corners of his lips turned up into a smile.

The young girl could not hold back an expression of surprise, and asked, "How did you know we used 'Two Hearts Beat as One' technique?"

"That isn't some kind of incredible secret technique." Ling Han shook his head. In his last life, he did not have any siblings. Thus, even when he had obtained this technique, he only took one look at it and tossed it aside right after. He only knew the use of this secret technique as well as its drawback, but could not recall its exact details.

"Heng, even if we only have a single percent of our original battle prowess left, it would be more than enough to take care of a mere sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier martial artist like you!" the young girl said, unconvinced, and once again raised her sword to point at him.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "If you misbehave, I'll smack your bottom!"

"Scoundrel!" a red blush immediately rose up on the pretty face of the young girl, and her sword suddenly shot towards Ling Han in an attack.

If this young girl's battle prowess had not dropped, then Ling Han would really have not dared to receive her attack head on. After all, the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier was much stronger than him. But, there may not even be a thousandth of her initial battle prowess left, what more a single percent. Additionally, he was a freak whose battle prowess allowed him to stand equal with the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier. In simpler terms, the result was that he was at an advantage in terms of battle prowess.

"Peng, peng, peng." A few punches from Ling Han, and the sword was successfully flung out of the young girl's hands. "Ding," and the sword was firmly stabbed into the ground, swaying from side to side.

"Will you only behave after getting your bottom smacked?" Ling Han deliberately put on a severe expression.

The young girl was so scared that her face had gone pale. Why

was she so unlucky? This was her first mission, and it had failed impressively. Moreover, she had only escaped the wolf's den, but had entered into the tiger's lair.

"Xiu," another figure flew out. It was the old man, the other assassin. As his hands waved, the threads of the huqin danced, as if they were silk threads, winding towards Ling Han.

"Old man, though I have respect for the elderly, but if you flaunt your seniority in front of me, I will not be polite either!" Ling Han declared as he used his fists to parry the old man's attacks. Due to his powerful defenses and sturdy physical body, those huqin threads that should have been able to cut through metals could do nothing against his bare fists.

The young girl also advanced with her sword in hand. The two of them moved in well-practiced coordination, and when they combined forces, their collective battle prowess not only doubled, but increased by two to three times. However, their battle prowess had suffered a drastic setback, and along with the fact that their opponent was a monster like Ling Han, they were still suppressed to the extent that they couldn't even fight back even if they just joined forces.

The two of them could not help but feel extremely astounded. Even if their battle prowess had dropped drastically, if they combined forces, their power should be more than enough to dominate over any ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier martial artist. Yet this young man in front of them was really monstrously strong, he actually managed to turn the tables on them to suppress them.

"If you misbehave, then you'll be thrashed!" Ling Han's foot kicked out and hit directly on the young girl's bottom, kicking her some distance away before throwing a punch onto the old man's chest, also forcing him to fly off some distance away from him.

But after he had thrown this punch, Ling Han's expression

became a little strange.

There was something off about that feeling!

He walked towards the old man who was already lying down on the ground, now only able to moan in pain. Ling Han felt about the old man's face, and suddenly tore off a thin mask with a tear.

The old man's appearance changed greatly in that single instant, and actually revealed an angry-looking beautiful young face that looked quite similar with the young girl's face.

No wonder!

Ling Han finally understood. Just now, he was still feeling curious about how there could be such a large age gap between this pair of "brother and sister". Now it looks like the "elder brother" wasn't the elder brother at all, but an elder sister who had simply disguised herself as an old man.

"Lecher!" the elder sister shouted in anger, a furious blush on her face, before actually fainting from her rage.

Ling Han sighed. He had not deliberately attacked her breast. Who asked this girl to disguise himself as an old man?

"Sister!" after the disguise was exposed, the young girl made no more attempts to gloss things over, and immediately called out. Unfortunately, the kick that Ling Han delivered just now was really very heavy—her bottom felt like it was burning even now. She had just gotten up before falling down to sit on the ground again.

"How troublesome!" Ling Han sighed again, "Do you two not have some other place to hide that you must come here to add onto my troubles?"

The young girl put on an expression as if she had been wronged. If they had known that there was a perverted lecher living here, they wouldn't have come here even if they were beaten to death.

"Hey, hey, hey, cursing someone in your heart is not a good thing to do," Ling Han said.

"How did you know?" the young girl asked in shock, an adorable expression on her face.

"With your kind of temperament, you want to be an assassin?" Ling Han only felt that the master of these two sisters was really too much of a failure to actually train this kind of assassins. Their master should practically hit himself with a piece of tofu, thus committing suicide.

"What do you care!" the young girl humphed, and ignored him.

"Watch out, or I will smack your bottom!" Ling Han threatened.

"You, you dare!" the young girl was once again so scared by his threat that her face had turned pale. Usually, she had her elder sister to protect her, but now that her sister was unconscious, she suddenly felt at a loss.

"You two only know how to give me trouble!" Ling Han shook his head. He stretched out a hand, grabbed the collar of the elder sister, and walked over to pick up the younger sister before entering his house.

"You, what do you want to do?" the younger sister had turned pale from fear. Was this guy going to commit a crime of lust in broad daylight?

"Hehe, what do you think?" Ling Han asked, deliberately putting on a wicked expression.

The younger sister was so scared her eyes rolled in the back of her head, and actually fainted too.

"Ai, I give up. They are like this, and they want to become assassins." Ling Han shook his head. At first, when he saw the well-coordinated movements of these two girls, and how well-practiced they were, he had thought they were experienced assassins. But in the end, they were... mere rookies!

He tossed the two girls into Hu Niu's room. He thought for a while, then moved Hu Niu's "egg" into his own room.

Who knows when the little girl would hatch out of her egg.

After a short while, the pair of sisters awoke, and when they discovered they were fully dressed and there was nothing off with their appearances, they both felt relieved.

"Sister, let's take advantage of that guy not being here, and quickly flee," the younger sister said.

"How do we flee?" the elder sister said with a bitter smile. "After we used 'Two Hearts Beat as One', we forced ourselves into another battle. Can you even use Origin Power now? If we go out now and fall into the hands of those smelly men... I would rather die."

"But that guy is really bad, always saying that he's going to smack my bottom," the younger sister said, feeling very wronged.

"That person's eyes look very clear, so I don't think he's that kind of person." The elder sister shook her head.

"Sister, don't forget that he groped your breast just now!" the younger sister pointed out this fact.

"Stupid girl, don't talk nonsense. I was punched by him!" the elder sister quickly argued.

"What's the difference?" the younger sister mumbled.

Ling Han had just pushed open the door and entered, and could not stop his face from twitching. This pair of sisters were even more amateurish than he had thought.

Chapter 140: The Whole Story

When they saw Ling Han come in, both sisters put on guarded expressions. Just now, they could somehow still have the ability to fight, but now, they were really like fish upon a chopping block, completely at the mercy of others.

Ling Han moved a stool closer to them, sat down, and said, "Why don't you tell me your story?"

Both girls shook their heads at the same time, and the younger sister even declared stubbornly, "Death is better than being insulted. Just kill us!"

"All right, since you two are so determined to die, then I'll give you a hand!" Ling Han nodded and stood.

The two sisters looked like they were not afraid of death and exposed their necks to receive a killing blow, but their tightly gripped hands betrayed them—who would not be afraid when facing death?

Ling Han rubbed his chin, and said, "You two are quite good-looking. To just kill the two of you seems to be too much of a waste."

"You, how can you be so untrustworthy!" the two sisters declared angrily, "Kill us quickly!"

Ling Han could not help being amused, and asked, "So what if I am untrustworthy?"

"You won't get a good end!" the younger sister said with a pale face.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and asked the elder sister, "Bringing along a silly little girl like this is a lot of pressure, isn't it?"

"You, you even insulted me?" the younger sister only felt extremely wronged. This young man either insulted her, or scared

her. He was really too despicable! Moreover, he didn't look much older than herself, yet kept referring to her as a little girl, pretending to be so much more mature.

"Tell me your names, or I will smack your bottoms!" Ling Han threatened.

"Heng, I won't tell!" the younger sister declared stubbornly.

"I am Liu Feng Er, and she is my younger sister, Liu Ru Er," the elder sister said.

"Sister, why did you tell him? We would rather die than submit!" the younger sister, Liu Ru Er, declared with a pout.

"What about the person you want to kill?" Ling Han asked.

"Her name is Xu Ke Xin. She used to be a member of our Falling Flower Court, but is now our enemy!" this time, Liu Ru Er snatched the chance to answer first. Since there was no possibility of 'rather die than submit' anymore, then there was no way that an outspoken person like her could hide any secrets.

"Why?" Ling Han asked. He truly felt that his curious nature was much too strong. This had nothing to do with him at all.

"Xu Ke Xin used to be the top assassin of our Falling Flower Court, but she actually allied herself with an outsider, charged into our Falling Flower Court, and killed almost all the members of our Falling Flower Court. Although the two of us sisters are all that is left of the Falling Flower Court, we will definitely make this traitor repay with her life," Liu Ru Er made an impassioned declaration, her head held high.

"Pa," Ling Han flicked her forehead, which caused the young girl to hold onto her head in pain as she looked at Ling Han with murderous eyes.

"You tell me," Ling Han turned to look at the elder sister.

"We come from Fire Country, and Falling Flower Court is an

organization of assassins. Since young, us two sisters were taken in by our Grand Elder as disciples. Xu Ke Xin collaborated with the Imperial Family of Fire Country and practically massacred the entire Falling Flower Court. Elder Hua managed to save the two of us and flee, but her injuries were much too severe. She only managed to last for a few years, and died last year," Liu Feng Er said. Her explanation was clear and methodical, unlike her younger sister's disorganized explanation. The latter didn't even care if her audience understood her or not.

"And the reason why Xu Ke Xin had committed such crimes... was only because she wanted to steal a treasure of the Falling Flower Court, a Staying Youth Pill. After she got it, she made her way to Rain Country, and using some unknown methods, actually became an Imperial Consort of the Rain Emperor, gifted with the honorable name of 'Consort Yun'.

We used the token that she had left behind to lure her out, but never thought that after a mere five years, that woman actually broke through to Spiritual Ocean Tier, making our plans fail at the final step."

Ling Han was astounded. Just for the sake of a Staying Youth Pill, she actually became hostile and cruel enough to destroy the sect that had nurtured her for years? But when he thought about it, there were indeed some women who placed as much importance on their beauty as on their very lives. For these women, they could sacrifice anything as long as they could preserve their beauty.

But this Xu Ke Xin really did have her ways to actually manage to clear her history of bloodshed and murder, and actually become an Imperial Consort of Rain Country.

"You can rest here and wait for your wounds to recover. When you are recovered, you must immediately leave. Do not drag me into this," he said.

Liu Ru Er looked extremely surprised, and asked, "Why are you

helping us?"

Ling Han laughed, and said deliberately, "Of course, it's because the two of you are so beautiful, so you can pay me back by marrying me in future."

"Heng, I will not accept you!" Liu Ru Er immediately declared proudly.

"Silly girl!" Ling Han shook his head. After understanding the whole situation, he had naturally lost the interest in continuing the conversation, so he turned around and left the room. The reason why he was willing to help them was because he was displeased with Xu Ke Xin. That woman actually bore killing intent towards him—of course he would have to go against her.

Although there were another two mouths to feed added like this, compared with Hu Niu's colossal appetite, there was not much difference whether these two sisters were here or not. The amount of food consumed would not attract anyone's suspicion.

In the blink of an eye, two days had passed. Ling Han took medicine every day and so his cultivation advanced very rapidly. However, all medicine had a poisonous component, so even though he had concocted a large amount of alchemical pills, he could only take one or two pills per day. Otherwise, the natural poison content in these medicines could accumulate in his body and the result would be unthinkable.

The Liu sisters recovered very slowly. Using the "Two Hearts Beat as One" technique to force out their potential was harmful to their foundation, and no medicine would be of any help to any wound to a person's foundation. Even if there was, the medicine would at least have to be Earth Grade and above. Ling Han was not that generous to get some Earth Grade pills for these two sisters.

There was a slight change to the "egg" that Hu Niu had transformed into. The original white color had turned red, and he could vaguely see a crimson light flickering within, as if the little

girl was about to hatch out of the egg soon.

Those who had ventured to the site of that ancient battleground also returned one by one. The godly medicine had fled, the Spiritual Tools had flown off, and they had already gotten whatever they should have gotten. Whatever they didn't get, they had no way to get hold of anyways, so what was the use of continuing to stay there?

At night, the Third Imperial Prince earnestly invited Ling Han to join him at "Cherishing Flower Pavilion".

Ling Han had quite a good impression of this Imperial Prince, so he decided to give the latter some face and accept the invitation.

The Cherishing Flower Pavilion was the most luxurious money-squandering establishment of the Imperial City. Anyone with any slightest bit of social status would choose to receive guests here, because there was not only food made from valuable ingredients and excellent wine here, but also female attendants who had gone through strict training. These women were all extremely beautiful, and came with various bearings.

It could be said that their bearing and beauty completely enabled them to pass themselves off as any princess of the various Great Clans. This naturally satisfied the hearts of all men who sought novelty as they chased after these female attendants.

However, there was too strict a requirement to enter into this Cherishing Flower Pavilion. Even clansmen of minor clans had no right to enter into this place. The establishment would not accept their money to lower the entry requirement. But, the more exclusive it was, the more popular the Cherishing Flower Pavilion was. One could not help but sigh at how well the owner of this establishment could grasp human psychology.

The Third Imperial Prince did not only invite Ling Han. He also invited a lot of other young elites. He had reserved a courtyard of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion for his gathering, proving how

very liberal he was with money. Merely the expenses for this one night would be enough for an ordinary family to live their entire lives in comfort.

Ling Han strolled and arrived at the entrance of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion. There were two exquisitely beautiful servant girls standing at the entrance to receive customers. They were tall and slender, *****, and were very high grade in terms of appearance.

"Yi, Big Brother Ling?" A voice filled with surprise suddenly called out from behind him.

Ling Han turned around and saw a young man and woman standing side by side. He could not help but show a smile, and said, "Li Hao, Xue Yi."

"It really is you!" Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi both smiled, and quickly approached him.

"Hehe, should I be congratulating you for finally winning the maiden's heart?" Ling Han raised his clasped hands in Li Hao's direction, causing this guy to instantly show an expression of embarrassment, but there was no way to hide his joy either.

Chapter 141: Drawing Saber in Anger

Ling Han only thought for a short while, and managed to figure out the key factor in this issue.

Li Hao managed to enter Hu Yang Academy, and was practically guaranteed a bright future ahead of him. The Zhu Clan had to be worried that Li Hao would experience a change of heart after witnessing the dazzling and extravagant lifestyle of the Imperial City, and so had Zhu Xue Yi follow him here.

However, this couple seemed to have finally broken through the last layer separating them, and their relationship has naturally proceeded smoothly. When Ling Han saw this, he nodded internally, happy for them as well.

"Big Brother Ling, I kept looking for you after I entered into the Academy, yet couldn't find you at all," Li Hao said, a little guilty.

Ling Han laughed loudly and joked, "You probably haven't spent too much time searching, right? Always lovey-dovey with Xue Yi, and so didn't manage to find me, right?"

Li Hao's face turned crimson. The feelings between himself and Zhu Xue Yi had only been a hazy, indistinct kind of affection, and neither of them had dared to speak of their feelings openly. After reaching the Imperial City, the two of them only had each other, and were very far away from home, so their affections naturally increased drastically, wanting nothing more than to cling to each other at all times.

"Big Brother Ling, you're always such a teaser!" Zhu Xue Yi said, acting like a spoiled child, dispersing the awkwardness Li Hao was feeling.

Li Hao smiled faintly. Li Hao was a bit wooden in character and slow in speech, while Zhu Xue Yi was much livelier. The two of them would be able to compensate for one another's shortcomings.

"Yi, poor fool?" it was at this moment that a light 'yi' was heard from behind them, and a young man quickly approached them. It was the young master of the Kong Clan. When he saw Ling Han, a cold smirk appeared on his face, and he said, "What a coincidence for me to see you here!"

He had been tricked out of a hundred silver coins by Ling Han. Though this paltry sum of money was nothing much to him, the crux of the matter was that he was displeased. However, due to the sudden interception of Xu Ke Xin, he did not manage to find Ling Han to settle this grudge.

"Young Master Kong, who's this guy?" a gorgeously dressed woman leaned closely and into Young Master Kong's arms, casting a coy glance at him.

"Oh, just a poor fool," Young Master Kong gave a wave of his hand, looking very disdainful.

"Who are you calling a poor fool?" Li Hao had the short temper of a young man and could not hold himself back from retorting.

Young Master Kong swept a glance over Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi, and a contemptuous expression appeared on his face, as he said, "You have just recently arrived at the Imperial City, haven't you?"

"How did you know?" Li Hao blurted out.

"Haha, just look at the air of a country bumpkin surrounding you, I'm sure you must have come out from some rural, out-of-the-way place!" the contempt on Young Master Kong's face deepened, and as he stared at Zhu Xue Yi, he said, "However, this village girl does not look too bad. If properly dressed up, there might be still be a bit of worth playing with her."

"How dare you!" there was no way that Li Hao could tolerate his beloved being insulted like this, and immediately raised his fist in a punch towards Young Master Kong.

"Ah!" the beautiful girl instantly screamed.

"Step aside!" Young Master Kong shoved the beautiful girl to one side and raised his hands to receive Li Hao's attack.

"Peng, peng, peng." The two of them had thus come to blows.

Li Hao was in the fourth layer of Element Gathering Tier, while Young Master Kong was in the fifth layer, so theoretically, Young Master Kong should be stronger. However, his cultivation level was obviously built up through the use of various resources, so his martial arts foundation was not stable at all. From the look of things, Young Master Kong's battle prowess was merely four Stars.

Thus, the two of them were at a tie. Their battle proceeded furiously, yet neither was able to get the upper hand.

"Hahaha, never thought that a village boy would be able to have a bit of ability!" Young Master Kong said with a loud laugh, "Country boy, how about you lend me your woman to play with for a few days? Don't think it's a loss for you. With my careful teaching, your woman would be able to learn a lot of different moves, and let a country boy like you taste something new."

Hearing him once again insult his woman, Li Hao's eyes turned red. He drew his saber in his anger, and aimed a slash towards Young Master Kong.

"What a good brat, you actually dare use weapons against me!" Young Master Kong gave a humph, and similarly drew his sword and clashed with Li Hao.

Li Hao gave a furious roar, and a flash of Saber Qi shot out like an enraged dragon, dancing towards Young Master Kong.

Young Master Kong's cultivation level of the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier was built up by force, so how was it possible that he would be able to defend himself against Saber Qi? Instantly, a panicked expression appeared on his face. Within a few moves, Li Hao's Saber Qi had already caused multiple wounds on his body, causing him to cry out in pain.

"Stop! Stop!" he exclaimed in fear, quickly calling a ceasefire. He was not a person with an indomitable will.

"Apologize!" Li Hao withdrew his saber, and shouted at Young Master Kong.

Young Master Kong's face turned ashen. For him to actually apologize to a country bumpkin... if this was known by others, what would happen to his reputation? But this country bumpkin was obviously a rash brat. If he clashed with him head on, it was really possible that he would suffer.

He was just about to temporarily humble himself in view of the situation when his eyes swept over the area, and instantly, joy appeared on his face. He called out, "Big Brother Tan, save me!"

A tall, slender young man was slowly approaching them. This newcomer was quite handsome, and every move he made was overflowing with confidence. His name was Tan Wei Qi, and he was a young clansman of one of the middle-class clans of the Imperial City.

In the Imperial City, there were only eight Great Clans—to be qualified as a Great Clan, the clan needed to have a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite to oversee things. There were a lot more middle-class clans, because they only needed a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite in their ranks. Meanwhile, there were countless minor clans, and they only needed a Gushing Spring Tier martial artist to be qualified as a minor clan.

While Young Master Kong was respectfully addressed by others 'young master', the truth was that he only came from a minor clan. The Kong Clan was deeply involved in business and commerce, so although the clan did not produce many elite martial artists, they had substantial wealth and were even richer than a large number of middle-class clans.

Thus, Young Master Kong knew quite a number of young masters from various middle-class clans. This was also his capital.

At first, Tan Wei Qi did not recognize Young Master Kong, because the latter was really cutting a sorry figure at the moment. It was only when he took a closer look that he recognized the latter. He could not help but be shocked, and asked, "Kong Wen Hui?"

"Big Brother Tan, it's me!" Kong Wen Hui replied, scowling miserably.

"Why are you looking so miserable?" Tan Wei Qi could not help but laugh out loud, for he had discovered that Kong Wen Hui's opponent was merely in the fourth layer of Element Gathering Tier.

Kong Wen Hui glared fiercely at Li Hao, and said, "It's this country bumpkin. Just because he managed to form a flash of Saber Qi, he actually dares to be so arrogant in the Imperial City."

"Oh?" Tan Wei Qi glanced over at Li Hao, and a hint of disdain appeared on his face. He could tell with one glance that this was an outsider. The air of the rural countryside was practically hitting him in the face.

As a member of one of the clans of the Imperial City, whether it was Kong Wen Hui or Tan Wei Qi, both had a natural kind of arrogance and pride, and looked down on anyone who came from outside the Imperial City.

"Country bumpkin, kneel and kowtow to apologize!" Tan Wei Qi immediately said darkly to Li Hao, without even asking about how the conflict between the two of them had begun.

He naturally would not have any qualms about doing so. What kind of background could a mere country bumpkin have in the Imperial City?

Li Hao did not dare to be the slightest bit careless. The pressure that came from this person far surpassed the pressure he felt from Kong Wen Hui. The former was at least in the late stage of Element

Gathering Tier. Though his Saber Qi could forcibly increase his battle prowess by another Star, he was still no match for the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier and above.

...Unless Tan Wei Qi was the same as Kong Wen Hui, only having the cultivation level without stable foundations as support.

"A mere fourth layer of Element Gathering Tier martial artist. I would be able to dominate you with a single finger!" Tan Wei Qi humphed coldly, and said haughtily, "I am in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier!"

Li Hao's expression changed drastically. Even if this newcomer's cultivation level was also without proper foundations as support, the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier would still have at least seven Battle Stars of battle prowess, and was still in the position to completely dominate over him.

"Big Brother Hao, let's just forget it!" Zhu Xue Yi spoke up. Although Ling Han, based on his current battle prowess, need not fear any martial artist in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, this was still the Imperial City, after all. Who knows what kind of background these people come from?

Chapter 142: Country Bumpkin

"Hahahaha, so you people do know how you should behave!" Tan Wei Qi laughed coldly, "Then kneel down and apologize!"

"We can apologize, but we will definitely not kneel!" Li Hao forced out through gritted teeth. This was his greatest concession, and if it was not because of Zhu Xue Yi, he would rather fight to the death.

A dark expression flickered across Tan Wei Qi's face. He had already opened his mouth, yet this brat actually dared to refuse him?

Indeed, he did not dare to kill anyone. No one would dare to commit murder in the Imperial City, though a fight was still fine. Even if he severely injured his opponent, with the power of the Tan Clan behind him, things would still be easily smoothed over—against a country bumpkin like this, one look at this guy and he knew that the former did not have any particularly important background—so what if he bullied and oppressed this country bumpkin?

"You're only seeking your own suffering like this!" Tan Wei Qi humphed, and the aura of an elite warrior in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier swept out, pressing down on Li Hao.

Li Hao gritted his teeth and forced himself to face this pressure head on, yet veins were continuously popping up on his forehead. This pressure was indeed too heavy.

"Hehe, it's alright if you don't want to kneel... as long as you let your girlfriend remove all her clothes and give us a dance. We are all forgiving people here, and we'll give you a way out," Kong Wen Hui said with a snicker.

Zhu Xue Yi shuddered. She did want to help Li Hao resolve the issue, but if she really did take off her clothes in public, how would

she be able to face Li Hao in future?

"Oh, so you guys enjoy watching someone naked dance so much?" Ling Han spoke up, a cool expression on his face. He was now angry.

When he befriended someone, he would not care whether the person was strong or weak, or what kind of background they came from. They could not be stronger than how he had been in his last life, anyways. Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi had fought at his side quite a few times, so they could be considered to be old friends.

A person like him... very much covered for his own people!

The only reason he had not interfered previously was just because he wanted to see to what extent these two people would be seeking their own death.

"Haha, I'm only interested in watching women dance naked, not men dancing naked. Even if you want to dance naked, I will not watch it!" Kong Wen Hui stared at Zhu Xue Yi. Though there were many such beauties of this level in the Imperial City, there were very few of them that were in Element Gathering Tier. And any woman in Element Gathering Tier in the Imperial City was not a character that he could meddle with. Thus, naturally, his heart was heated and a powerful desire to conquer such a woman rose up within him.

"Just dance in the street like this. One hour of naked dancing, and I will consider this matter settled," Ling Han said calmly.

"Ha... hahahaha!" Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui exchanged a glance, before erupting into raucous laughter. They were laughing so hard, they were practically about to tear up. This was indeed a country bumpkin. He had to be used to being arrogant in a small place, and thought that this place was also his territory.

Heng, this is the Imperial City. If a dragon came here, it would have to coil up; if a tiger came, it would have to lie on its stomach!

"Brat, you really are naive!" Tan Wei Qi shook his head.

"I think he is more of an idiot," Kong Wen Hui insulted.

"Big Brother Ling, forget it. Let's just go!" Zhu Xue Yi said in a low voice. The waters in the Imperial City were too deep. There were people in Gushing Spring and even Spiritual Ocean Tier at every turn, definitely not people that those who had come from small places like them could trifle with.

"You still think you can leave?" Kong Wen Hui wanted to sweep away his previous cowardly behavior, and because Tan Wei Qi was beside him, he said coldly, "Didn't you hear me tell you to dance naked? I've changed my mind, now all three of you are to dance naked!"

"Let's go. Don't bother with them!" Zhu Xue Yi and Li Hao both pulled on Ling Han's arm. They were very worried that Ling Han, with a young man's short temper, would come to blows with these two. They were local troublemakers of the Imperial City after all, who knows what kind of terrifying background these two came from?

However, this was still the area under the direct jurisdiction of the Emperor; no matter what, they would not dare to really thrash students of Hu Yang Academy!

Ling Han smiled, and said, "Where are we going? I made a promise with someone to meet inside here." He pointed at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion.

"Brag, just continue to brag!" Tan Wei Qi interrupted, "Country bumpkin, do you know what kind of place this is? This is Cherishing Flower Pavilion! Without a high enough status, no matter how much money you have, you would still be unable to step into these doors!"

Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi nodded internally. They have both heard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion. It was indeed a trademark of the

Imperial City, and would only serve that particular group of people that were the highest on the social ladder. No matter how wealthy ordinary people were, they would not be able to enter within.

But they would of course not "expose" Ling Han, though they both agreed that Ling Han must be acting stubborn.

"That's right! Not even I have the privilege to enter!" Kong Wen Hui exclaimed. Though the Kong Clan was indeed very wealthy, but their strongest clansmen were only in Gushing Spring Tier. If he wanted to enter into Cherishing Flower Pavilion, he would need to at least have the support of a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite.

"Country bumpkin, don't act stubborn anymore! Quickly take off your clothes and dance, then go back to your village to farm!" he laughed loudly.

Ling Han's eyes turned cold. He was now truly angered.

"Yi, why is Young Master Han standing outside?" it was at this moment that a melodious female voice was heard, and from within the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, a crimson-haired beauty walked out. Her figure was very shapely, and she had a captivating, hypnotizing beauty to her.

It was the beauty that was always by the side of the Third Imperial Prince. Her name was Zi Yan.

"Yo!" When Kong Wen Hui's eyes fell upon her, his eyes lit up. How could he know that she was someone at the side of the Third Imperial Prince? He thought that she was one of the female attendants of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, and could not help but say foolishly, "Beauty, how much is it for a single night? Hehe, it's all right even if the two of us share you, right? Price is no issue!"

The crimson-haired beauty's eyes instantly narrowed, and a dark killing intent immediately emanated from her.

"Pa!"

Tan Wei Qi's hand rose and fell, giving Kong Wen Hui a heavy slap as he cursed, "Bastard, if you want to die, don't drag me along with you!" he quickly bowed towards the crimson-haired beauty and said, "Greetings, Miss Zi Yan!"

Kong Wen Hui had no idea why he was slapped, but he was not an idiot. When he saw the drops of sweat covering Tan Wei Qi's forehead, he could guess that this Miss Zi Yan came from a formidable background that was at least greater than the Tan Clan behind Tan Wei Qi.

Zi Yan did not pay them any attention, and turned towards Ling Han instead, asking with a sweet smile, "Young Master Han, do you have some kind of conflict with these two?"

"Hiss!"

Tan Wei Qi had already been shivering due to fear in the first place, and now his heart tightened even further. When Zi Yan called "Young Master Han" the first time, he had not thought that she was addressing Ling Han because he did not know Ling Han's name. Furthermore, he did not think that a country bumpkin was worthy of being received personally by a favored person of the Third Imperial Prince, who even addressed him as Young Master Han.

Yet this time... Miss Zi Yan was facing Ling Han directly, and addressing him as such.

It's over! It's all over!

For even Miss Zi Yan to be so respectful towards him... this was proof that this brat must have come from an overwhelmingly powerful background.

Tan Wei Qi only felt his whole body was ready to collapse, and could not control his legs from shaking. He almost did not even have the energy left to remain standing. Kong Wen Hui, on the other hand, was not so scared, because he did not know who Zi Yan

was. As the saying goes, ignorance is bliss.

Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi were both shocked too. They did not know who this young woman was, but from the moment she appeared, she was able to force Tan Wei Qi to lower his head, so she must have obviously come from a terrifying background. But even so, she still had to address Ling Han as "Young Master Han"!

Ling Han had only been in the Imperial City for a few days, and he had already reached such a high level on the social ladder?

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "These two guys humiliated my friends."

Zi Yan's beautiful face instantly turned cold, and swept her eyes over Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui. The aura of a Gushing Spring Tier elite rolled out, causing the hearts of these two to beat like crazy, almost ready to pop out of their throats.

"Are you not going to apologize to Young Master Han and his friends?"

Chapter 143: Dance Obediently

Tan Wei Qi immediately lowered his head in apology, and said, "Young Master Han, please forgive me for my blindness."

Although Kong Wen Hui was displeased, when he saw that even Tan Wei Qi had bowed his head, how could he still dare to remain standing upright. He too bowed his head, and said, "I was wrong. Please forgive me, Young Master Han!"

"Get lost!" Zi Yan shouted in rebuke and pointed.

The two of them were thanking the gods for their good fortune in their hearts as they prepared to make a break for it.

"Who allowed you to leave?" Ling Han asked.

Zi Yan could not help but show a sliver of displeasure on her face. She was the Third Imperial Prince's most trusted, and in the whole Imperial City, who would not greet her respectfully as "Miss Zi Yan"? Yet though she had already stepped out as mediator, Ling Han would still not let the matter go. Wasn't this deliberately not giving her face in public?

Both Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui were experts at observing the faces of others, and were instantly delighted. As long as Ling Han and Zi Yan came into conflict, then they would be immediately getting back the upper hand. Meanwhile, Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi both became anxious, nervous about the imperious way Ling Han was acting.

"What other command does Young Master Han have?" Tan Wei Qi asked respectfully. He knew that the more respectful he appeared to be now, and the more overbearing Ling Han acted, the more dislike would be incited from Zi Yan.

"I've already said so. The two of you dance an hour naked here, and we'll forget about the matter today," Ling Han said.

"Young Master Han, death is better than humiliation!" in terms

of petty scheming, Kong Wen Hui was obviously also an expert, and immediately cooperated very well with Tan Wei Qi, deliberately showing an extremely angered expression.

Who would believe that it was him who had first suggested for Zhu Xue Yi to dance naked now?

Indeed, the displeasure on Zi Yan's face deepened. She had not witnessed the incident from start to finish, and only knew what she was seeing now. Obviously, Ling Han was behaving too imperiously. However, Ling Han was someone the Third Imperial Prince wanted very much to befriend after all, so she did not dare to offend him either. She said, "Young Master Han, isn't that too much? Why not let them prepare some gifts and personally pay you a visit tomorrow to express their deepest apologies to Young Master Han and your friends?"

"We shall heed Miss Zi Yan's instructions!" Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui instantly nodded with respect.

"Big Brother Ling, let's just forget it!" Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi advised as well.

Ling Han was not moved, and said, "There is no need for such trouble. As long as they dance naked here today, then we'll consider the matter settled."

"Don't go too far! I don't believe you dare to kill us!" Kong Wen Hui shouted, intending to spur Ling Han into action.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "The Empire has laws, who would dare to disobey? However, you two are only minor characters. The best option for you would be to dance obediently. Otherwise, I will rip off all your clothes and leave you to hang in this street for three days and three nights."

"Young Master Han!" Zi Yan could not help but interrupt, a sliver of coldness appearing on her beautiful face.

"What is it? You disagree?" Ling Han turned to look at her.

"Hahahaha, how could that be!" a bout of laughter was heard, and the Third Imperial Prince strode out, "These two actually dare to delay the meeting between Brother Ling and myself. How could they simply be let off without a harsh punishment!"

"Third Imperial Prince!" Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui both gasped out in shock. They had never thought that Ling Han would have such an amicable relationship with the Third Imperial Prince. It was only now that Kong Wen Hui managed to guess who Zi Yan was, and could not help but shiver with fear.

That was the Third Imperial Prince, an Imperial Prince with real authority in his hands. In the future, it was possible that he would be inheriting the throne.

Zi Yan instantly stepped back and stood behind the Third Imperial Prince, as if she was his shadow.

"You've heard Ling Han's words, right? Just dance right here!" the Third Imperial Prince said calmly, yet his tone contained a severity that could not be refused.

This was the aura of someone in the upper echelons of society.

A pained expression appeared on Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui's faces, yet they did not dare disobey. Filled with humiliation, they began to remove their clothing.

"Brother Ling, please!" the Third Imperial Prince said with a smile. With his status, he would of course not stay here to watch two men dance naked.

"Do you mind if I bring two friends along with me?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

"Of course not!" the Third Imperial Prince answered with a laugh.

Ling Han smiled at Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi, and said, "If you two have nothing to do later on, would you like to join me?"

"Can we really?" Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi's heartbeats instantly

sped up. That was the one and only Third Imperial Prince. If they could share a meal with him, then who in the whole Imperial City would dare to bully them in the future?

Ling Han must also have thought of this, and that was why he had invited them to join him. Instantly, a strong gratitude towards Ling Han arose within the two of them.

"Of course, you can." Ling Han said with a smile.

"Many thanks, Big Brother Ling! Many thanks, Third Imperial Prince!" Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi both said in unison, and looked at Ling Han with heated gazes.

This guy had just come to the Imperial City for a few days, and he was already an honored guest of the Third Imperial Prince. He was really too awesome.

The five of them turned around and stepped into the Cherishing Flower Pavilion. As for the pitiful Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui, they continued their naked dancing on the street. Even though the Third Imperial Prince and the others were no longer here, they dared not take the chance to run off. Otherwise, if the Third Imperial Prince insisted on pursuing the matter, that would really become something very serious.

Two sturdy men taking off their clothes in public. As they removed each piece of clothing, they continued to dance. This was indeed a rare spectacle, which instantly attracted the attention of passersby to gather around them and watch.

"How offensive! To actually dance naked here!"

"Hehe, most importantly, the dancers are two men. If it was two beautiful girls, then it would be a much more pleasing sight."

"Che, just look at their two little d****, they aren't even half as big as mine!"

"Forget it. If you expose your d*** in front of so many people, who knows, maybe it would even shrink so much that it'd be

smaller than theirs!"

"Is there anyone to take care of this issue? Two sturdy men dancing naked in a busy street like this, if this was seen by little kids, wouldn't it be very inappropriate?"

The spectators began to mock, causing Tan Wei Qi and Kong Wen Hui feel like they wanted to cry.

"Big Brother Tan, what do we do now?" Kong Wen Hui asked miserably. It was not only he who was being shamed now, but this matter would definitely implicate the clan behind him, and cause their Kong Clan to become the butt of jokes. In the future, his status within the clan would definitely experience a drastic drop as a result of this incident.

"Shut up!" Tan Wei Qi looked like he was ready to commit murder. If it was not because of Kong Wen Hui, how would he have fallen to this level? He hated Ling Han, yet he hated Kong Wen Hui even more.

Seeing two sturdy men moving their d**** and twisting around into different poses, the spectators erupted into loud laughter.

After entering into the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, Ling Han completely put Kong Wen Hui and Tan Wei Qi to the back of his mind. He was not so petty to keep holding a grudge against two such minor characters. Of course, if the two of them still had not given in after today, then what awaited them would be a thunderous crackdown.

The Third Imperial Prince had reserved a side courtyard, and many guests had already arrived by now. When they looked at Ling Han, curiosity arose on all their faces as they all began to guess at his background. He was someone that the Third Imperial Prince not only sent out Miss Zi Yan to receive, but even the Third Imperial Prince would personally step out to receive.

"Come, come, come. Let me introduce to all of you. This is Ling Han, Brother Ling, a young friend of Fu Yuan Sheng, Grandmaster Fu, and also someone on very friendly terms with Wu Song Lin, Grandmaster Wu."

...When he found out that Ling Han was actually a representative of Wu Song Lin, he really got a big shock. Rain Country only had two Black Grade high level alchemists and they were both very close with Ling Han. Thus, the Third Imperial Prince further dared not slight Ling Han.

"Hiss," the others all gasped in shock. A young friend, how could this term be so freely used?

Chapter 144: Feng Yan Has Arrived

Ling Han could have become one of the trump cards in the Third Imperial Prince's hand, but why was he so quickly playing this card?

That was because it was now the most important period of the competition for the throne. The guests he had invited tonight were all the outstanding youths of various middle-class clans of the Imperial City. If they were to declare their loyalty towards him, that would be equivalent to getting the approval of their clans.

Don't underestimate these clans. A few hundred middle-class clans united together could have quite a bit of influence. Most importantly, the Eight Great Clans were much too outstanding. Whichever Imperial Prince was crowned as Emperor, they were still the Eight Great Clans, neither advancing nor degrading. On the other hand, every Rain Emperor would still have to play well the role of mediator to maintain the peace between the Eight Great Clans. This was the responsibility of their reign.

As a result, it was impossible to pull any of the Eight Great Clans into his camp. Thus, the Third Imperial Prince could only place his focus on the middle-class clans. Why were there only thirty-odd people tonight? That was because the other middle-class clans have already been divided between his camp, the Eldest Imperial Prince, and the Seventh Imperial Prince. The only ones left were these clans that had still not yet decided whom to support, and were waiting for the best offer.

Lastly, whichever Imperial Prince ascended to the throne, the clans that had supported the wrong camp would definitely be pushed aside by the other clans. It wouldn't even be impossible for them to be forced out of the Imperial City in secret.

When they heard that Ling Han actually had two Black Grade high level Grandmaster alchemists behind him, everyone could not

help but reveal expressions of astonishment.

That was too awesome, wasn't it?

However, due to the outstanding status of alchemists, they usually would not interfere in any power struggle on their own initiative. Now, looking at the very friendly relationship between Ling Han and the Third Imperial Prince, did that mean that the Third Imperial Prince had gained the support of these two ultimate Grandmaster Alchemists?

Heavens, that would be desperately serious. With the support of these two awesome bosses behind him, even if the current Rain Emperor already had a candidate in mind for the position of his heir, he would probably have to reconsider his decision so as to avoid these two ultimate Grandmaster Alchemists not cooperating and making things difficult for the Imperial Family when the new Emperor was crowned.

In the competition for the imperial throne, the Third Imperial Prince had a slightly higher chance to emerge victorious in the first place, and now, all of a sudden, two great bosses emerged to support him... he was practically guaranteed to win.

With such thoughts, these young people instantly became very passionate, and humbled themselves to the lowest extent.

At first, although they were in the position of subjects, there was still an air of pride in their bones because he was the one who wanted to pull them into his camp! But things were different now. Now that they knew the Third Imperial Prince's "trump card", these people took the initiative to become closer with him.

They were both Black Grade high level alchemists. If the two of them simply threw out any kind of alchemical medicine, it would be enough for them to go crazy over.

When the Third Imperial Prince saw this scene, a smile turned up the corners of his lips. This was exactly what he wanted to see. He

could not wait to play this card, because the current Rain Emperor had the intention to abdicate from his throne to put all his focus on his studies of martial arts. At most within five years' time, the Emperor wanted to have his heir inherit the throne, so the Third Imperial Prince had to make the most of his time.

"Hahahaha, let us all drink!" the Third Imperial Prince raised his wine cup and instantly, everyone else raised theirs as well. When the Third Imperial Prince drained his cup, the others would naturally not dare to leave wine in their own cups, and drained theirs as well. After the Third Imperial Prince sat, they all returned to their seats.

The Third Imperial Prince was now fully content with his achievements. This place was only the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, but in the near future, in the imperial court, there would be even more high-ranking persons paying him respect and subjecting to his rule.

The female attendants began to replenish the wine in everyone's cups. Why was the Cherishing Flower Pavilion so expensive? That was because these female attendants were not only astonishingly beautiful, but had very elegant bearing. Some of them were even in Element Gathering Tier, and for men to have these female attendants to accompany them in drinking fulfilled men's natural inherent desire to conquer.

Ling Han was the brightest star tonight. He had a beauty at either side accompanying him to drink, and both were in Element Gathering Tier. One had to know that both these beauties were young women in their twenties, yet they had already stepped into Element Gathering Tier. They were outstandingly talented in the first place, but at the same time, they also needed a large amount of resources to be able to reach this level.

These two women have both undergone strict training, and they spoke very gently and moved very lightly and elegantly. What was even more remarkable was that they were very good at observing

the facial expressions and movements of others. Ling Han needed only to cast a look, and they would know which dish Ling Han wanted to sample, and immediately, they would take the initiative to deliver a bite-sized portion of the said dish into Ling Han's mouth.

Such a rapturous array was definitely enough to cause any young man to lose all composure, and easily fall into such a gentle trap. However, what kind of mental strength did Ling Han have? As the saying goes, he could pass into a field of flowers, yet not one leaf would cling to his figure. His heart would not be disturbed by any woman, no matter how beautiful she was.

He did not maintain any reservations either, and only peacefully enjoyed the service of these two women. Yet his eyes remained clear, and there was no sign of ***** on his face, causing the Third Imperial Prince, who had kept one eye on him, to look even higher upon him. The Third Imperial Prince even had the delusion that the person he was looking at was not a youth in his teens, but an ultimate warrior who had experienced multiple hardships and witnessed countless great spectacles.

Ling Han had the support of the two great bosses of alchemy behind him, so naturally he became someone who everyone wanted to gain the favor of. However, Ling Han seemed to have no intention to pay too much attention to these people. He would only occasionally speak with the Third Imperial Prince, Li Hao, and Zhu Xue Yi. The rest of the time, he would simply concentrate on enjoying his meal.

This was very normal. In his last life, he was the one and only Alchemy Emperor, so how could he have the patience and mood to deal with these little brats who thought that they were so extraordinary?

None of the others thought that there was anything strange about the proud way that Ling Han was acting, because alchemists were indeed such proud people in the first place. If Ling Han did

not show such prideful behaviour, they would think that it was odd instead.

When they saw that Ling Han was not so easily approachable, they naturally turned their attention to Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi. They all earnestly sought the company of these two, causing Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi to feel overwhelmed.

Just now, a mere young master from a minor clan would dare to insult and humiliate them, yet now, there were so many young masters from middle-class clans all fighting to befriend them! The two of them could not help but look at Ling Han with gratitude. All of this was because of Ling Han.

The Third Imperial Prince saw that Ling Han only ate and drank, and was not like the others who took the opportunity to paw at the female attendants beside them, and asked, "Brother Ling, are you not satisfied with these two beauties?"

When they heard these words, these two beauties instantly revealed resentful expressions, their lovely appearances very moving. Even if one knew very well that they were only playing along, one could not help but feel tender towards them.

"Haha, if Brother Ling thinks they are not tender enough, then why not have Zi Yan accompany you?" the Third Imperial Prince asked suddenly.

Zi Yan's face instantly changed, and her body shook slightly. Her eyes were filled with resentment. She was not putting on a show, but really feeling heartbroken. She had thought that she had a high place in the Third Imperial Prince's heart, but never thought that she was still only a card that he could play.

Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi's hearts both sped up at this. Previously, Zi Yan had been so grand and impressive in front of them, yet now, she would still have to accompany Ling Han to drink. This gap was really too big for them to accept.

Ling Han smiled, and asked, "Are you willing, Miss Zi Yan?"

Zi Yan's figure shook again, but she answered, "Zi Yan is willing."

Yet Ling Han shook his head, and said, "A gentleman will not take someone else's favorite. Miss Zi Yan belongs to the Third Imperial Prince, so it's best if you stay by the Third Imperial Prince's side!"

Zi Yan instantly looked grateful at this. She would naturally not dare to disobey the Third Imperial Prince's command, but if she was able to escape from this calamity, her impression of Ling Han improved greatly. However, she also gained a new understanding of the Third Imperial Prince.

In view of the throne, anyone would only be the pawns that he could use, and if she continued to follow at his heels so blindly, what kind of ending awaited her?

She was obviously at a loss.

"Hahahaha, Third Imperial Prince, I have come late. May I enter?" it was at this moment that a clear voice was heard from outside, and this voice had a very strong air to it.

The Third Imperial Prince's expression changed slightly, and exclaimed, "Feng Yan!"

Chapter 145: Tyrant

Ling Han has heard of the name 'Feng Yan' many times.

When he was at Seven Winds Mountains and encountered Feng Luo, that was the first time he had heard of Feng Yan, and the latter was very much revered by Li Hao and the others. After that, during the Da Yuan Tournament, the name Feng Yan was frequently mentioned as well. That was the name of a genius who could make geniuses like Qi Yong Ye, Li Dong Yue, and the others pale in comparison.

After he had arrived at Hu Yang Academy, he found out that this person's ability qualified him to rank within the top ten strongest True Disciples, and may even be qualified to challenge the only three Core Disciples of the Academy.

Because of Feng Luo, there was no way he would be able to avoid coming into conflict with Feng Yan.

And tonight, they had finally met.

"Haha, no matter what time Brother Feng is here, I will definitely come to receive you," the Third Imperial Prince said in a loud voice, laughing.

"Xiu," a figure suddenly shot into the side courtyard. The figure was a tall, slender young man with clearly shaped eyebrows and bright eyes. He had a head of thick, black locks, and it seemed as if there was a holy light enveloping his entire body, emanating a very pale light that would cause anyone who saw him to be enchanted by him.

Ling Han's eyes suddenly narrowed. Seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier!

Before the New Year, wasn't this man only in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier? How could it be that he had suddenly broken through four whole layers in a mere two months' time? This was

even more awesome than Ling Han himself!

This guy must have gotten some kind of colossal fateful encounter. Otherwise, who would be able to surpass Ling Han with the perfect combination of his alchemical pills to support his cultivation, his Heaven Grade Spirit Base, and Heaven Grade cultivation techniques in terms of cultivation speed ?

Feng Yan, a man that was widely known among the young generation of Rain Country, and someone that no one dared to underestimate. This man had a high chance to enter into Spiritual Pedestal Tier one day and become one of the ultimate warriors of Rain Country.

"Brother Feng!" the Third Imperial Prince stood up and raised his clasped hands in Feng Yan's direction. Though he had a higher cultivation level than Ling Han, he did not have the divine sense that Ling Han had retained from his last life as an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier. Additionally, he was quite far away from Feng Yan, and so could not identify the latter's cultivation level. Moreover, who would observe another's cultivation level for no reason?

"Your Imperial Highness!" Feng Yan too raised his clasped hands, and swept his eyes over all those present, then said, "I have come so boldly here tonight because firstly, I wish to greet Your Imperial Highness, and secondly, I heard that the person who framed my younger brother and almost caused him to be expelled from the Academy is also present here tonight."

As he spoke his last words, his gaze stopped and focused on Ling Han. Obviously, he had recognized Ling Han.

The Third Imperial Prince was stunned at first, before a raging fire was lit inside his heart.

Feng Yan was obviously here to seek vengeance. But, the problem now was that this was a banquet that he was hosting, and Feng Yan actually came to make trouble! How much face was Feng Yan not

giving him? Indeed, he looked very highly upon Feng Yan, but the latter was still a mere martial artist at the end of the day. Honestly speaking, Feng Yan's cultivation level was lower than his own, and what he looked highly upon was Feng Yan's future potential to become stronger.

In terms of background, the Feng Clan only had martial artists of Gushing Spring Tier, and in terms of personal ability, Feng Yan was only in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier. What right did Feng Yan have not to give him any face at all?

In the heart of the Third Imperial Prince, Ling Han who had two major bosses of alchemy behind him was obviously far more important than Feng Yan, so he decided to fully support Ling Han without any hesitation. He said, "Brother Feng, I was also present during that incident, and I can definitely guarantee that it was your brother who intended to frame Ling Han."

Yet Ling Han frowned, because he heard Feng Yan's words —'almost caused him to be expelled from the Academy'. So, that meant that Feng Luo was still currently at the Academy?

What was going on?

He wanted to deal with an old pervert, yet encountered trouble. Now, he wanted to kick Feng Luo out of the Academy, and here comes Feng Yan, who used some kind of unknown means to pull Feng Luo back in.

"Heng, the Academy has already investigated that it was the sole responsibility of Wei He Le. It was he who had stolen the badge that I lent to Feng Luo. Wei He Le has had a previous conflict with Ling Han, and so framed my brother," Feng Yan said darkly.

F***, how could he be so shameless?

Everything was obviously planned by Feng Luo, yet why had he suddenly become the victim according to his brother? Right or wrong were so easily overturned by Feng Yan?

Yet Ling Han was not the slightest bit angered. History was always written by the victors, and in this world, the real authority and valid argument was decided by the strength of one's fists. What he did not understand was how could Feng Yan be so fearless when he was only in the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

One had to know that even if Feng Yan stepped into Spiritual Ocean Tier, he was still a subject of Rain Country, and had not yet reached the level where he could break away from imperial authority—this would at least require Spiritual Pedestal Tier. And if one was in Flower Blossoming Tier, that was an existence that would stand out over all others.

Feng Yan should definitely not be as idiotic as this.

The Third Imperial Prince too never thought that Feng Yan would actually dare oppose him like this. The thoughts in his head whirled quickly. Could it be that Feng Yan had sought refuge from his Eldest Brother or his Seventh Brother, and that was why he did not fear him at all? But no matter how it was, a mere subject actually dared to talk back to him publicly. This was a challenge to his authority, and something he would not tolerate.

"Feng Yan, take care of your words!" he withdrew his smile, and his face became completely serious as a faint powerful air emanated from him.

When a [Son of God](#) raged, blood would flow over ten thousand miles!

Though the Third Imperial Prince was not the Emperor yet, he still had limited use of power of the nation which could instantly place him in a very powerful position, as if he was an Emperor, causing everyone to feel only respect and fear towards him.

"Your Imperial Highness, hand over this person to me, and I'll give you face and not kill him!" Feng Yan did not show any signs of fear, and even began to announce his conditions to the Third Imperial Prince.

Silence fell over the whole area!

Had Feng Yan lost his mind? That was the Third Imperial Prince, the most powerful person in Hu Yang Academy. His personal ability was more than enough to dominate over Feng Yan, what more that he was an Imperial Prince with monstrous power in his grasp.

Even if the Third Imperial Prince was an expert in concealing his thoughts, hearing such words caused his face to twitch slightly, hinting at the powerful rage he was feeling. He took a deep breath, and suppressed these emotions, before saying calmly, "You are going a bit too far!"

"Is Your Imperial Highness not planning to surrender this person to me?" Feng Yan smiled a bit mockingly.

"Could it be you dare to use force right in front of me?" the Third Imperial Prince asked coldly. He was now truly furious.

"Everyone has the responsibility to arrest a criminal. Is Your Imperial Highness intending to shield such a criminal?" Feng Yan strode forwards, really showing absolutely no fear of the Third Imperial Prince.

"How dare you!" Zi Yan leaped out and waved her hands. In each hand appeared a blue dagger, and she charged towards Feng Yan. "Shua, shua, shua," blue light danced unhindered, forming a dance of daggers that filled the air, as if there was a screen of light in front of their eyes.

"Small tricks!" Feng Yan humphed, and punched out with a fist.

This punch from him was terrifyingly strong, as if a mountain was pressing down. He had just punched out, and Zi Yan's face turned completely pale, [her crimson hair](#) dancing in all directions as if a hurricane had just passed by.

"Peng!"

This punch had not yet hit her, but Zi Yan was already flung

away by a powerful force. As she flew through the air, an arrow of blood followed her.

This, this, this, this... everyone was absolutely astonished at this. Feng Yan really dared to cause injury to someone. Had he gone crazy, or did he have some kind of incredible trump card hidden up his sleeve?

"Trash!" the Third Imperial Prince humphed lowly. He was already very furious, and now one of his people was defeated with a single punch, causing him to lose control of his emotions, and unable to help but spit out this word.

Zi Yan looked like she had suffered a harsh blow. Her figure gave a slight shudder, and she spat out another mouthful of blood.

Yet Feng Yan only stared at Ling Han, and exclaimed darkly, "You are indeed very bold!"

Son of God here does not mean in the spiritual/religious sense, but is the typical name used to address the Emperor.

Likely typo here. Author has highlighted the "crimson-haired beauty" that has always accompanied the Third Imperial Prince, yet now writes her hair as black in color.

Chapter 146: Lady Yan

"I have always been very bold," Ling Han said in a very calm tone.

"You aren't scared that I will kill you?" Feng Yan asked, as if there was only the two of them there. He did not even care about the presence of the Third Imperial Prince.

The Third Imperial Prince's entire body was shaking all over. He could barely hold himself back anymore.

"Do you dare?" Ling Han smiled.

Feng Yan actually considered this question seriously for a moment, then answered. "Temporarily not!"

Temporarily not... so that meant that he would dare to in the future?

Hiss, could it be that this guy didn't know Ling Han had the two big bosses of alchemy standing behind him, and was someone that even the Rain Emperor had to give some amount of face to?

"If you don't dare to, then get lost. What are you lingering around here for? Planning to show off your pretty face?" Ling Han rebuked.

"Hahahaha!" the Third Imperial Prince laughed loudly, feeling very gratified.

Yet Feng Yan was not angered in the slightest, and said, "You've beaten up that worthless brother of mine a few times, and I have come tonight to repay the favor, but it'll be enough if I thrash you once. In the future, I will thoroughly discredit you, and you will become spurned by all before I finally kill you!"

The tone he used was one of complete calmness, as if he had secured some incredible power and authority that allowed him to kill anyone he desired to in this Imperial City.

"Feng Yan, are you finished?" the Third Imperial Prince stood up

and strode towards Feng Yan, flames of rage burning within his eyes, "You are indeed very brave to actually dare to proclaim repeatedly your intention to murder in this Imperial City. I shall apprehend you and deliver you to the prison to reflect on yourself."

"Oh, is Your Imperial Highness going to personally give me some guidance?" Feng Yan smiled calmly, and said, "I have long admired the Son of Heaven Fist Technique that Your Imperial Highness uses, and I'd really enjoy experiencing it tonight."

This guy must have lost his mind, everyone else thought, but they could not help but admire Feng Yan's bravery. How many people in the Imperial City would actually dare to so openly oppose the Third Imperial Prince? Even the young elites and geniuses of the Eight Great Clans would not have such ability nor the courage to do such a thing.

"You will soon get your wish!" the Third Imperial Prince's fists trembled, and instantly, flashes of Qi circulated all over his body.

That was the power of the nation!

All descendants of the imperial line, even if they were from a branch line like Qi Yong Ye, were able to use this ability. The difference between power of the nation and power of the city only lay in the strength of the ability—they were basically the same thing.

Using power of the nation to support oneself, and to gain the ability to suppress one's opponent. It was enough to increase one's battle prowess by another two or even three Battle Stars!

The Third Imperial Prince was in the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier in the first place, once he began to manipulate power of the nation, his battle prowess would at least be worth ten Stars, and that was yet to take into consideration the additional power upgrade from his martial arts technique and Fist Qi. Taking all these into consideration, there would definitely be no issue for the Third Imperial Prince to reach eleven Stars.

Facing a Third Imperial Prince who was making a full-out effort, Feng Yan did not dare to be careless, and eventually withdrew his laidback expression, becoming serious.

The two of them made a move to attack, and the air instantly became extremely tense.

"Hehe, is it appropriate to start fighting in my Cherishing Flower Pavilion?" a dainty voice was heard, and a shapely figure shot over. It was a beautiful woman with a very sensuous figure, and her face was temptingly gorgeous and coy. Her mature body was practically enough to turn the eyes of all onlookers red.

How sexy! How impressive! It was enough to incite others to commit crime!

"Lady Yan!" the Third Imperial Prince raised his clasped hands in her direction and smiled. This was the owner of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion. To be able to open such a money-squandering establishment in the Imperial City, how could the owner be just any common, ordinary person?

Even Feng Yan withdrew his battle intent, raised his clasped hands, and said, "Greetings, Lady Yan."

Lady Yan smiled brightly, and said, "I cannot bear to receive such great courtesy from esteemed guests such as you two. However, the Cherishing Flower Pavilion has its own rules, and it is forbidden to fight here. If the two of you want to fight, please proceed outside for your battle."

"Haha, since Lady Yan has already thus spoken, how could I be rude!" Feng Yan once again raised his clasped hands, turned to Ling Han and said, "I will let go of you this once, but... there will be no second time!"

He turned around and left, not giving any face to the Third Imperial Prince at all.

Ling Han and the Third Imperial Prince were both clear. This

was all due to Feng Luo. Because of him, Feng Yan had began to nurse a grudge towards the two of them.

More importantly, what kind of trump card had this guy obtained that he would even dare to oppose the Third Imperial Prince in public?

After the trouble caused by Feng Yan, all the guests had lost the heart to continue drinking and having fun, so the Third Imperial Prince simply ended the banquet, and everyone returned to their respective homes.

"Mr Ling, could you meet with me for a moment?" Ling Han had just stepped out of the courtyard when he heard Lady Yan's voice. It was dainty and sweet as if it was made out of honey, a very beautiful voice.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "Of course." He told Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi to go first, while he walked towards Lady Yan.

"Mr Ling, please." Lady Yan invited Ling Han into an elegant little courtyard, where flowers bloomed all around, creating a very beautiful environment.

"May I know your reason for meeting with me, Lady Yan?" Ling Han sat down, and an extremely beautiful young girl served some fragrant tea. This young girl tea was of much higher quality than the two women before, and every move and smile from her seemed to have some kind of spell that would cause the hearts of those who saw her to throb and beat faster.

She was also a very brave girl. She took her place, standing behind Lady Yan, and directed a curious gaze at Ling Han. That was because there were very few people in the Imperial City who could enter this side courtyard, and any one of these people could cause the whole Imperial City to tremble with a few stomps of their feet.

A young man that looked to be even younger than herself... what

basis did he have to come here? Moreover, his expression looked completely calm. There was no sign of nervousness or pleasant surprise, causing her to be even more baffled.

"Mr Ling has obtained the favor of two ultimate Grandmaster Alchemists, which is a very curious thing for me," Lady Yan said with a beautiful smile, "Perhaps I will have something that may need Mr Ling's help in the future, and so would like to establish good relations with Mr Ling."

Well, she was direct.

"This is a little gift from me, and it would please me if Mr Ling would agree to accept it." Lady Yan nodded at the young girl, and the latter withdrew a small wooden box, which she then placed on the table.

Ling Han did not refuse, and simply opened the box on the spot. Inside the box lay a red-colored brocade pad, and on the brocade pad was a handguard. From the looks of it, it should be quite old—a simple, primitive air emanated from it.

He stroked the handguard a few times, and closed his eyes slightly. After a moment, he finally said, "Lady Yan is indeed very generous. Such a gift... I do not feel deserving of it!"

"Oh?" Lady Yan looked curious at this, and asked, "Does Mr Ling know the use of this handguard?"

"If I have not guessed wrongly, this will help one increase one's battle prowess, and it should be able to at least increase it by a whole Battle Star!" Ling Han said.

The increase of a whole Battle Star was a very terrifying thing. For most people, they were only able to use battle prowess that corresponded to their cultivation level, but once the battle prowess they could display exceeded their cultivation level, that would mean that they had gained the ability to challenge an opponent stronger than themselves, regardless of individual cultivation

levels. That was why Ling Han had said Lady Yan was very generous.

This was their first time meeting, and yet she had given him such a valuable gift. Even if Lady Yan was a very generous person by nature, this was still too much of a shock.

"Mr Ling is indeed knowledgeable. That's right. The name of this tool is 'Purple Star Handguard'. Once activated, it would be able to increase the user's battle prowess by another Star, but exactly to what extent this power upgrade would be, would depend on the level of affinity the user has with this handguard," Lady Yan explained.

Ling Han put back the lid on the box, and asked, "Milady, is there something you want my help with?"

"There is indeed!" Lady Yan smiled faintly.

Chapter 147: Cutting a Carriage in the Middle of the Street

"Please speak, Milady. If it is within my ability, then I would of course not refuse. If it is not... then I would not dare accept such a priceless gift," Ling Han said very calmly.

The young girl looked extremely astonished at this. After hearing the effects of this handguard, he could still remain so calm. Was this guy really a young man? Why did he seem like an old man who had suffered uncountable hardships?

Lady Yan smiled, and said, "Since it is something that I want to request your help with, then it is of course within your ability, Mr Ling. The task that I would like to seek your help with is for you to request the very able person behind Mr Ling to concoct a 'Permanent Pill' for me."

"Permanent Pill?" an expression of shock appeared on Ling Han's face, "Milady has a friend that has entered into a state of false death?"

"How did you know?" Lady Yan stood suddenly, looking very agitated.

Permanent Pill was a Black Grade high level alchemical pill, but it was very near the level of Earth Grade. The number of Black Grade high level alchemists that could successfully concoct it could be counted on the fingers of one hand. In the past, Lady Yan had also asked Fu Yuan Sheng and Wu Song Lin to help her concoct it, but the two of them did not have the slightest bit of certainty that they could succeed, and so refused her.

And now, Ling Han was able to guess the reason for her need of the Permanent Pill just from hearing its name. How could she not believe that there was a Grandmaster Alchemist behind him that was even more awesome than Fu Yuan Sheng and Wu Song Lin?

...Earth Grade alchemist!

Anything that happened in Cherishing Flower Pavilion would never escape her eyes or ears. Thus, when she found out that Ling Han had a profoundly deep friendship with the two big bosses of alchemy, she had already guessed that there was an even more capable alchemist standing behind Ling Han. Otherwise, Wu Song Lin and Fu Yuan Sheng would never have lowered themselves to befriend someone so much younger than themselves.

This caused her to be even more resolved to establish a good relationship with Ling Han, and see if she would be able to obtain the help of that grandmaster alchemist behind Ling Han to concoct Permanent Pill for her.

"I guessed," Ling Han answered serenely. He would naturally not be telling her that he had been the Alchemy Emperor in his last life, and there was no pill formulae that he had not heard of or seen before.

The more serene he appeared to be, the higher his position became in Lady Yan's heart. This was what confidence meant!

"Mr Ling, does the alchemist behind you have the certainty to successfully concoct the Permanent Pill?" Lady Yan asked in a slightly shaking voice.

"Yes," Ling Han nodded and smiled.

In truth, if it had been a few days ago, he would really not have the certainty to be successful, because this was near the level of Earth Grade alchemical pills, and he could only manage to successfully concoct Yellow Grade high level alchemical pills at maximum. However, after he had fused with the Strange Fire, he had enough confidence that he would be able to concoct all alchemical pills from Earth Grade and below.

Who asked him to be the Alchemy Emperor in his last life?

"Really?" happiness came too suddenly, causing Lady Yan to feel

that everything was surreal.

"En!" Ling Han nodded.

"Thank, thank you, Mr Ling!" Lady Yan bowed slightly, her beautiful eyes brimming with the light of tears.

Ling Han said, "Hand over the ingredients necessary to me, then come to the Hu Yang Academy to collect the pill three days later."

Three days... a dilemma that had troubled her for ten years could be solved within a mere three days' time? Lady Yan's expression looked both pleasantly surprised and somewhat blank. She was stunned for a while before she said, "Shuang Shuang, go collect the ingredients for me."

"Yes, milady!" the young girl beside her answered quickly. Her name was Yun Shuang Shuang, and she was an orphan who had been taken in by Lady Yan. Since little, Lady Yan had loved and doted upon her as if she was her real daughter.

Very soon, Yun Shuang Shuang returned with another wooden box. This one was much bigger than the previous one.

"Then I shall take my leave first," Ling Han said, picking up the wooden box.

"Please allow my personal carriage to send you back!" Lady Yan pointed at the wooden box in Ling Han's hands. It would be inconvenient for him to walk back when he had such a large box in his hands.

Ling Han actually had the Spatial Ring on him, but would naturally not use it in front of Lady Yan, so he nodded and said, "Then I shall have to trouble you, Lady Yan."

"You're welcome, Mr Ling." Lady Yan had solved a huge problem, and could not help feeling very happy, showing a bright, dazzling smile, "Shuang Shuang, escort Mr Ling back for me."

"Yes, Milady!" Yun Shuang Shuang agreed respectfully.

In the company of Yun Shuang Shuang, Ling Han stepped out of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion. There was already a horse-drawn carriage at the entrance, and the horse drawing the carriage was a handsome, completely white horse. However, there was a deer's horn growing from the forehead of the horse.

That was the Cloud Deer Horse, a type of demonic beast. It was not very powerful, but because it was very good-looking, it was usually used to draw carriages or as a mount. It went for a very high price.

It was even more luxurious inside the carriage. There was even a soft couch on which one could lay down to rest, as well as fresh fruits and fine wine that allowed a traveler to enjoy rare luxuries even when on a journey.

"Please, Young Master Han!" Yun Shuang Shuang said. She was extremely curious about Ling Han. A young man like him could actually resolve the problem that had troubled her mistress for so many years.

Ling Han boarded the carriage, took out the handguard, and began to refine it.

Yun Shuang Shuang who was sitting at one side felt extremely depressed. She was a very beautiful young girl, and what man would not have his eyes stuck on her upon seeing her? Yet this brat completely ignored her presence, simply focusing all of his attention on that handguard.

Yes, she admitted, that handguard was very valuable, but it already belonged to him. He could look at it anytime, but was she someone that he could see at any time that he liked?

What a foolish brat.

Ling Han did not know that he had become an unromantic youth in this young girl's heart. He continued to observe this handguard, and his palm rubbed against the patterns branded on the surface of

the handguard, his face pensive.

Spiritual Tools were typically used to increase the user's battle prowess, but it was typically done through the Spiritual Tool's own power to achieve this means. For example, if there was the power of ice sealed into a Spiritual Tool, then once released, it would create a thousand miles of ice, and snow would fly over ten thousand miles, which was a very powerful ability.

This was not directly increasing the martial artist's own battle prowess.

But this handguard was actually able to increase its user's battle prowess by a single Battle Star, which attracted Ling Han's interest. He wanted to investigate clearly the amazing properties of this Spiritual Tool. If it could be used directly within his body, then wouldn't it be even more amazing?

He sat with utter seriousness, as if he was an immortal monk. Even if there was an extremely beautiful young girl seated beside him, it was as if he had not seen her at all.

Yun Shuang Shuang could not stop her face from twitching at being ignored, looking very much unable to accept this.

This was really too despicable! She was an extreme beauty, hey!

"Peng," all of a sudden, the carriage actually split open from the middle. That was a flash of light from a saber, seemingly powerful enough to slice the heavens and destroy the land, that cut the carriage in half!

What person would be so bold as to make a move in the Imperial City?

Ling Han and Yun Shuang Shuang both leapt out of the overturning carriage before landing steadily on the ground. The coachman did not suffer much injury. He drove the horse and drew the other half of the carriage some distance away before finally stopping.

Ling Han and Yun Shuang Shuang both raised their heads, and not too far away, on a wall, there was a young man standing with a saber in his hand, a powerful dominating pressure emanating from him.

Feng Yan!

"Ling Han, I've said before that I will be giving you a thrashing tonight!" he smiled. His expression remained cold, and the pressure exuded from him was very terrifying.

This was a person that liked to break the rules.

Or so Ling Han thought. He had also been such a person in his last life, someone who would not be shackled by any kind of rules or regulations. That was because he had enough power to disregard them—as one of the seven ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier in the world, was his status not awesome enough?

Feng Yan was not an idiot. He dared to openly oppose the Third Imperial Prince just now, and now cut a carriage in half in public. This was not merely arrogance. He must naturally have some basis for his overwhelming confidence.

"Feng Yan, you have gone too far. Are you not going to give face even to milady?" Yun Shuang Shuang asked furiously. Was this a public challenge issued to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion?

Chapter 148: A Magnificent Pervert

"I have already given face to Lady Yan before." Feng Yan smiled softly, "That was why I did not make a move at Cherishing Flower Pavilion, and deliberately waited here instead."

He had power, talent, and patience. He was indeed a difficult opponent.

That's how Ling Han thought of him. In truth, he even admired Feng Yan's character quite a bit. Unfortunately, before the two of them had even met, they had already stood on opposing sides, and were already destined to be foes.

In his last life, even if there were a few hundred million Feng Yans added together, they would not be a match for even just a look from him, but now... Ling Han's face grew serious. The seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier possessed even the ability to kill him instantly.

"Don't worry, I won't kill you—temporarily that is!" Feng Yan smiled, but this smile was filled with pressure and domineering.

"Feng Yan!" Yun Shuang Shuang called out loudly. That was really enough. One after another, they all did not care about the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, and did not even pay any attention to an outstanding beauty like herself. She was practically about to become extraordinarily furious.

Feng Yan did not even spare her a glance, and simply slashed his saber through the air.

"Shua," a flash of Saber Qi danced quickly towards them, as if it was a raging dragon!

When cultivation levels were different, the power behind the Saber Qi would of course be different. Ling Han was aware that the six flashes of Sword Qi he had now could not match even one tenth of the power behind this single flash of Saber Qi. However, there

was no such thing as giving up without even battling in his mind.

Ling Han gave a loud shout, drew his sword and parried. Six flashes of Sword Qi shot forwards unhindered.

"Peng!"

Without any surprise, he was flung away by this blow from the saber. The box in his left hand instantly flew out of his grasp, but his right hand still firmly held onto his sword.

As a swordsman, he would keep his hold on his sword as long as he was still alive!

"Cough!" he spat out a mouthful of blood. When he looked down, he could see there was a deep wound on his chest, from which blood was gushing out steadily. However, Indestructible Heaven Scroll was already circulating, and this wound was slowly shrinking in size.

"En?" a hint of seriousness flickered through Feng Yan's eyes, "Six flashes of Sword Qi? You are more powerful than I expected! Additionally, your physical body seems to be much stronger than any normal martial artist of Element Gathering Tier! I had intended to wound you severely with this slash."

Even so, his tone remained completely calm, as if everything was under his control.

Ling Han wiped off the blood at the corner of his lips, stood proudly, flicked his sword, and said, "I admit that you are currently more powerful than I am. I would need about half a year to be able to surpass you and firmly trample upon you."

"Ha, hahahaha!" Feng Yan was stunned for a moment, before suddenly laughing loudly. He nodded, and said, "You are indeed extraordinarily talented to be able to form six flashes of Sword Qi, and are indeed much more powerful than I was in the past. However, you will not have the chance to live for another half year. Within three months, at most, even if you were in the

Imperial Palace of Rain Country, I would be able to seize you and you will die by my saber."

Yun Shuang Shuang who had been standing at one side was completely dumbstruck and could not say anything at all.

In her mind, these two people were both maniacs.

Feng Yan was so strong, yet Ling Han actually said that he would be able to catch up to him in a half year's time and even trample on Feng Yan. And Feng Yan was even more of a maniac to say that even if Ling Yan hid in the Imperial Palace, he would be able to seize him and kill him. What treasonous words was he saying?

"Oh, then bring it on, and let me experience the power of the so-called strongest genius of Rain Country!" Ling Han's battle intent had shot skywards. He had his own trump cards in hand. Even if it was merely the Strange Fire, if Feng Yan was caught by the Strange Fire through close contact, even Spiritual Ocean Tier elites would die, what more a mere Gushing Spring Tier martial artist like Feng Yan.

"You do not have to try to anger me. Since I have said that I will be giving you a thrashing tonight, then it would be useless even if you kneel down and beg for mercy!" Feng Yan said calmly. Another slash from his saber shot out, and a terrifyingly powerful flash of Saber Qi danced forwards.

"Peng!"

Ling Han was once again flung away, but he was much better prepared this time. His sword managed to block an uncountable number of power ripples, and actually dispersed about over half of the power behind this one slash. Though he was still flung away and spat blood, the injuries he had suffered this time were much lighter when compared to the previous time.

Feng Yan could not help but look astonished at this, and said, "I only attacked once, and you were able to capture the moves of my

saber, and use a very wonderful way to defend yourself. You indeed deserve the name of genius! Now, I am beginning to waver. A genius like you that could become a threat to me, should I take the chance to eliminate you as soon as possible?"

When he said the last words, he did not hide the killing intent brimming in his heart at all.

Ling Han's left hand moved slightly. Strange Fire could be flung out at any time—this was currently his greatest killing move.

Feng Yan leaped down from the wall, and strode towards Ling Han. Every step he took felt like it caused the ground to have a slight tremor.

Yun Shuang Shuang was shocked, then realized that it was not the ground that was trembling, but it was her heart that was actually influenced by Feng Yan's movements without her knowledge.

This guy was really powerful!

However, she still stepped out courageously and stood in front of Feng Yan, for Ling Han was the key to the concoction of Permanent Pill. This was the most important thing to Lady Yan, and even if she lost her life in the process, she wanted to make sure Ling Han was safe.

"Move away!" Ling Han shouted. He had not fallen to the level that he needed a woman to die in his stead.

"I will not wound you for the sake of Lady Yan!" Feng Yan's left hand flashed out and a powerful force shot out. Yun Shuang Shuang was instantly pushed to one side, her face pale and she couldn't manage to get her breath back, which caused her great suffering.

A martial artist of the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier against an opponent in the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier; this was the only possible outcome.

Feng Yan continued to walk towards Ling Han, his expression cool. There was no way to tell what he was thinking or intending to do. Was he going to simply injure Ling Han, or... kill him?!

Ling Han waited with utter seriousness. This was an opponent that was so strong that it was enough to cause one to lose all hope.

"Yi, this little sister is really very pretty. Can you let me take a look at your breasts?" it was at this moment that a voice was suddenly heard, and a figure appeared. This newcomer was currently looking at Yun Shuang Shuang with lecherous eyes, and his fingers were wriggling like noodles, as if he was about to grab onto her at any moment.

Yun Shuang Shuang experienced a scare, and quickly shielded her breasts with her arms, rapidly taking a step backwards.

"If I can't look at your breasts, then I would be fine with your bottom, too!" this person settled for the next best thing, as if he was a person that was very easy to deal with.

This was a young man that looked to be only in his twenties. He was not a hideous man, but could not be considered handsome either. He simply looked like the most common of men that could be found on the streets. A perverted smile was all over his face, and he was practically salivating at Yun Shuang Shuang's *****.

Yun Shuang Shuang was so scared that she took another step back.

"Good Little Sister, don't be scared. I'm just a pervert, not a bad person!" this person said with a very guiltless expression.

Pei, a pervert could act so confident as if he was in the right?!

Feng Yan's eyes narrowed. With his ability, he actually did not manage to see how this person had suddenly appeared out of nowhere, and now he could not even tell how powerful this person was. A strong feeling of dread uncontrollably rose up within him.

"How do I address you?" he asked.

"Don't speak to me, you ugly man!" the person spat out, his eyes still completely focused on Yun Shuang Shuang, "Little Sister, what color are your underpants?"

Yun Shuang Shuang turned completely pale, and Feng Yan's expression did not look too nice either. He said in a deep voice, "Are you intending to defend this brat?"

"Just blabbering on and on, don't you know that's very annoying?" the person turned around to sweep a look over Feng Yan, "If you keep chattering, I will thrash you to the point you become even uglier!" he turned around to look back at Yun Shuang Shuang, and said, "Little Sister, my name is Gu Feng Hua, a magnificent pervert, a one hundred percent pervert!"

He said proudly, as if being able to become a pervert was a very honorable achievement.

Chapter 149: Retreat

Feng Yan's expression changed greatly, and he could not stop himself from making a move as he declared, "Then let me experience your ability!" he slashed out with his saber, and shot an attack at the pervert who had called himself Gu Feng Hua.

"Peng!"

Gu Feng Hua parried this slash with his bare fists, using some kind of unknown martial arts technique that turned both his fists completely black at the moment of his attack, as if they were made out of metal. Clashing with the saber caused a series of fiery sparks from the friction.

After this exchange, both of them took a few steps back, and a serious expression appeared on their faces at the same time.

"You should be in the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, right?" Feng Yan asked with a lofty expression, "Otherwise, you would not be able to block this slash of mine!"

Gu Feng Hua looked very astonished, and said, "Ugly man, you are obviously not a pervert, but why do you have such power?" apparently, in his eyes, all powerful elites had to be perverts.

Feng Yan humphed, and said, "Stop trying to scam me. Tonight, I'll give you some face, and temporarily let this brat off the hook."

"Ugly man, what kind of unfathomable nonsense are you blabbering on about? How could a handsome pervert like myself know such an ugly brat?" Gu Feng Hua's face was filled with disdain, and he turned and said to Yun Shuang Shuang, "Girl, look at how extraordinarily big your breasts are, and the clothes you are wearing are obviously a bit too small. Why don't you let this big brother take your measurements and make you a new suit of clothing?"

He stretched out a hand, and looked to be about to grab her

breast, scaring Yun Shuang Shuang so much that she took another few steps back.

Feng Yan looked deeply at Gu Feng Hua. There was actually such a young and powerful elite in Rain Country, but why had he never heard of this man? He was a decisive person by character, and immediately turned and left.

"Pervert, thanks," Ling Han grinned at Gu Feng Hua.

Yun Shuang Shuang's face turned pale. It was one thing if he proclaimed himself a pervert, but it was a completely different matter if another person called him a pervert. Who knows if this would incite the anger of this pervert?

"You have good taste!" Gu Feng Hua gave him a thumbs up, "Actually able to tell that I am a pervert. I am definitely going to befriend you!"

"Pu!"

Yun Shuang Shuang coughed repeatedly. Who would not be able to tell that you are a pervert? Was that something you should be proud of and boast about?

Indeed, the heart and thoughts of a pervert could not be understood with conventional reasoning.

"You are not a citizen of Rain Country, right?" Ling Han looked at him, thought for a moment, and asked, "Was that 'Black Iron Hand' you were using just now?"

"Yi, how do you know of Black Iron Hand?" Gu Feng Hua looked extremely surprised at this. This was a secret technique of his school, and it was actually recognized by a youth of Rain Country. This was practically inconceivable. He widened his eyes, stared at Ling Han, and asked, "Could it be that you are also a pervert?"

The corners of Ling Han's lips twitched. One indeed had to prepare to become a pervert in order to converse with a pervert. He laughed loudly, and said, "The identifying characteristics of

Black Iron Hand are too distinctive. When it is used, the user's fists would look like black iron, and with the advancing of cultivation level, the level of hardness would continue to increase. It is definitely not weaker than any Spiritual Tools of the same level."

Gu Feng Hua's expression changed a few times, before settling on delight, and he said, "You are indeed a pervert. We can definitely become very good friends!"

"Why have you come to Rain Country?" Ling Han repeated his question.

"My master foresaw that a secret treasure would appear here, so I came to take a look to see if I could get a share for myself," Gu Feng Hua said.

"Then you'll have to be disappointed. An ancient historical site had indeed appeared some time ago, and high-level Spiritual Tools had floated out on the waters of an underground river. However, it's gone by now," Ling Han said, shaking his head.

"Aiya, what a wasted trip!" Gu Feng Hua beat his chest and stamped his feet, looking very disappointed. But he immediately smiled right after, and said, "However, I managed to encounter another pervert on this trip, so it would still be worth it."

Ling Han could not help but sweat at this, and said, "Only someone with your charm could be called a pervert. My name is Ling Han, and I definitely would not be able to compare to you in terms of perversion!"

"Haha, so you do know yourself very well!" Gu Feng Hua looked very proud at this before he suddenly sighed and shook his head, "Ai, since I've already missed out on the chance of getting a fateful encounter, then I'll just go back to the mountains to continue my training!"

"Please! Please!" Ling Han and Yun Shuang Shuang both made a gesture of respectfully seeing him off. Neither of them were able to

deal with this pervert.

"Then I'll go now," Gu Feng Hua said.

"We won't bother with seeing you off," Ling Han and Yun Shuang Shuang said at the same time.

"Er..." Gu Feng Hua took a few steps before suddenly stopping, turning around, and saying, "Girl, you really can't let me measure your breasts?"

"Get lost!" Yun Shuang Shuang pointed with a finger, forcing down the urge to commit murder.

"Looks like I have yet to complete my training to become a full-fledged pervert," Gu Feng Hua mumbled. "This time when I return to the mountains, I must surpass my master in terms of perversion, and become the most perverted!" after saying so, he took a great leap, and his figure disappeared into the darkness of the street.

"There are indeed many extraordinary things in this wide world!" Ling Han said pensively.

Yet Yun Shuang Shuang said, "Feng Yan actually dared to damage a carriage of Cherishing Flower Pavilion. I will definitely report this to milady when I return, and let milady pressure the Academy into harshly punishing that evil man!"

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "You will most likely be disappointed. Feng Yan should have gotten the support of a great power this time round, so the Academy would definitely not deal with him."

Otherwise, Feng Yan would not have opposed the Third Imperial Prince so openly. In terms of reputation in the Imperial City, the Third Imperial Prince was definitely not weaker than Lady Yan.

Yun Shuang Shuang was still very furious. She beckoned the coachman back, and the two of them returned to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion.

Meanwhile, Ling Han stored the wooden box into his Spatial Ring. Since he had already promised Lady Yan, and had also received the reward from her, he would of course have to fulfill his promise and concoct the Permanent Pill. This time, his trip was completely peaceful, and he soon returned to Hu Yang Academy.

"The security in the Imperial City does not seem very good!" he said to himself. Feng Yan actually attacked him so brazenly on a street, yet there was no sign of any soldiers. He did not know whether it was that they had reacted too slowly, or they had not made a move at all.

‘I’ll just concoct the Permanent Pill first!’

He began to concoct the pill. With the ability that he has retained from his last life, concocting an Earth Grade alchemical pill was of course a piece of cake, but he did not dare to be careless now. After all, he was increasing the temperature of his flames with the use of the Strange Fire, so he would not be able to fully control the flames as he wished.

But for the Alchemy Emperor, this would only need a slight bit of extra attention from him.

Separating the ingredients, purification, and these techniques were used very smoothly. If Fu Yuan Sheng and Wu Song Lin were here, they would definitely again turn pale from shock, because the speed Ling Han was displaying now was a considerable few times faster than what he had shown in front of them.

Ling Han just had not wanted to scare them too much previously.

"Hong," the Strange Fire burnt brightly, contributing heat that far exceeded what Ling Han could produce based on his current cultivation level.

This caused Ling Han to sweat greatly, but the droplets of sweat quickly turned into water vapour from the extreme heat. There even appeared a few cracks on his skin, as signs of impending

dehydration appeared on his body. Thankfully, his physical body was strong enough and nearing Body of Rock Cliff, so it was not a problem for his body to withstand such high heat.

After half an hour, three differently colored flames suddenly appeared on his hand.

Three Fire Guide, this was his trademark secret skill that he had invented himself.

"Pill completed!" he laughed, and removed the lid of the alchemy furnace. His eyes swept over the contents, and a shocked expression appeared on his face, "The Strange Fire is indeed extraordinary. At first, I would definitely not have been able to concoct a pill so close to Earth Grade at my current level, but now, I not only successfully concocted it, but its quality has even reached sixteen Stars, which is far above my expectations!

No wonder there had been so many alchemists wanting to obtain a Strange Fire in my last life. It would indeed be of great help in the process of concoction!

If I was able to fuse with even more Strange Fires, then wouldn't the quality of the pills I concoct be even higher?"

Chapter 150: The Egg Has Hatched

Ling Han was very rueful. In his last life, he had already stood at the top of the field of alchemy, and had not thought of fusing with any Strange Fire, but from the looks of things now, even if he once again returned to the peak of alchemy, Strange Fire would still be a source of great help to him.

‘If I ever encounter any other Strange Fire in future, I will definitely not miss the opportunity to fuse with the Strange Fire!

And now... I'll take a bath first!’

After pill concoction, he could not avoid being covered by a great amount of dust. Since he was going to sleep later, even if Ling Han was not a clean freak, he would also feel uncomfortable with such a large amount of dust on him.

He boiled water in the kitchen, and after a while, he poured it into a big wooden tub. The water was high enough to reach his waist. After a considerable number of times boiling water, he finally filled the tub to mid level. Ling Han removed all his clothes, and stepped into the tub of water. The warmth from the water spread out and relaxed his entire body.

When he was concocting the pill earlier on, he himself was almost barbequed in the process. He had almost lost all the water content in his body, and now with the nurturing of the warm water, his skin immediately returned to its previous smoothness and elasticity at a visible speed.

He closed his eyes and rested his mind, considering his plans for the near future.

In the Imperial City, he had already reached quite a high level on the social ladder at first, convincing the two great bosses of the current field of alchemy to become his pillars of support. He could practically do anything he liked, but Feng Yan's return had

brought a very unstable variable into his path.

This person... was like him, completely ignoring all shackles of rules and regulations.

Most importantly, he must have gotten hold of some kind of trump card that allowed him to disregard all rules.

If he was also in Gushing Spring Tier, he would naturally not fear Feng Yan, but the sixth layer of Element Gathering Tier... was still a bit too far from Gushing Spring Tier.

‘I had thought that my cultivation speed was already very fast, but looks like it's still not enough!’ he could not help but frown, ‘Could it be that I would have to use ‘Passing Golden Needle Acupuncture’ to force out my potential and reach Gushing Spring Tier as soon as possible? But this is undoubtedly a last resort that would only make things worse. It will force me to pay the price of my future potential to force out power beyond my current capability. If it is not the only means available to me, then I had best avoid using such a method.

Moreover, there is only one chance to use such a method in my whole lifetime, so I should save this chance for when I need it even more.

According to Feng Yan, I should still be relatively safe within these three months.

With my current speed of cultivation, three months would be enough for me to reach Gushing Spring Tier, or even seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and I need not fear him by then.

But that Lian Guang Zu is a little odd. He looked like he wanted to take me in as his personal disciple previously, but did not bother with me anymore after throwing me here. That old man's attitude is a bit ambiguous!

Forget it. I need only to increase my own ability, and as long as I am capable enough, whatever devious scheme there is would be of

no effect on me.'

"Zhiya," the door to the kitchen was pushed open, and a dainty figure walked in. It was Liu Ru Er. She quietly walked in, as if she was a thief. Her eyes swept over the kitchen, and saw a head sticking out of a wooden tub which stunned her.

She had slept already, but suddenly felt pangs of hunger while she was sleeping. Thus, she got up, intending to look for some food, but never thought that she would encounter the master of this household, which naturally caused her to feel the awkwardness a thief would feel upon being caught.

"Ah..." but only after a moment, she suddenly shrieked and covered her face with her hands. She turned around abruptly and ran off. "Damn scoundrel!" she cursed.

Ling Han had a strange expression on his face. This was his house, and even if he decided to take a bath in the middle of the night, why would that offend anyone? Why did he now become a damn scoundrel? Moreover, his whole body was submerged in the tub, and she didn't even see anything. Did she need to have such a dramatic reaction?

But after such a disturbance from her, he had also lost the mood to continue bathing, so he stood up, took his towel and wiped himself off, intending to return to his room to sleep.

"Damn scoundrel, don't come over. I want to take some food-pu!" who would have thought that Liu Ru Er would return suddenly at this moment. The girl spoke very quickly, and he had just barely heard her when she had already walked in.

"Shua," it was as if time had frozen, and the two of them stared at each other without moving.

"Ah!" Liu Ru Er shrieked loudly again, before once again racing out, "Damn pervert, dirty pervert!"

Ling Han rubbed his chin. This wooden tub was tall enough to

reach his waist, and had covered completely all the important parts of his anatomy, so there was no possibility of her seeing anything inappropriate. Why was this girl embarrassed again?

"I am not a pervert!" he mumbled. When he recalled how he had encountered Gu Feng Hua previously, he could not help but grin.

"Little girl, let me give you a serious warning. I am now going to put on my clothes, and if you dare to peek at me again, I will smack your bottom sore," Ling Han warned before he stepped out of the wooden tub. He quickly wiped off his body and put on his clothes.

Outside, Liu Ru Er's heart was beating like crazy, and her face was as red as a tomato, as she fiercely stomped her feet, "Despicable damn scoundrel, if it was not because I had not yet recovered my full ability, I would definitely cut off your dog's head! Waaahh, I'm going to die from fury!"

When she recalled how Ling Han's naked body was practically branded into her mind, she could not help but want to go crazy.

Ling Han returned to his room, and took one look at Hu Niu's "egg", which did not seem to have changed in the slightest. He then lay down on his bed and quickly slipped into slumber.

"Ka ka ka," a faint sound was heard, which was especially clear in the silence of late night.

Ling Han's eyes suddenly snapped open and he flipped himself up to stand, his hands stretched out in front of his body in a defensive stance. This was due to the alert nature of a martial artist.

However, he quickly realized that this odd sound was not because enemies had arrived outside his room, but came from a corner of his room.

That giant egg.

Hu Niu?

There was no candle lit inside the room, and the window was also

tightly closed, so the room should be completely dark. However, there was a faint flickering light in the room—light was coming from the egg shell.

There were patterned marks on the egg shell, and it seemed as if these marks had suddenly gained a life of their own, continuously flickering on the egg shell.

Hu Niu was about to hatch out?

Ling Han had a very strange feeling. What kind of race did this little girl come from?

Without a doubt, such a great change had happened to Hu Niu because she had eaten the godly medicine. From this aspect, Hu Niu must have gotten a colossal benefit, and this was a change for the positive.

But this was really too strange. Would it be like a butterfly's metamorphosis? A caterpillar entered into its cocoon, and what came out was a butterfly?

The answer should be soon revealed.

"Ka ka ka," slight cracks appeared on the egg shell, and a powerful heartbeat was heard from within. Apparently, Hu Niu should have entered a state similar to hibernation, and when the changes to her body were complete, the various bodily functions were awakened.

Otherwise, with the little girl's appetite, she would have long rebelled after these few days of not eating or drinking. How could she have so obediently remained inside for so long?

"Tong! Tong! Tong!"

The sound of the heartbeat was as loud as the cracking of thunder, and Ling Han could not help the slight change to his expression. He had seen many powerful races in his last life, and the strength of the heartbeat, in a sense, would reflect the strength of life and vitality of these races.

From this aspect, Hu Niu would be adequate to rank as the top.

Ling Han was getting more and more curious, and could not help guessing again. Would the little girl come out with an extra two horns, or with a pair of wings?

A ball of light flickered within the egg, spun around, and he could faintly see the shrunken figure of a human being.

"Meat!" a loud shout was heard, and this tiny figure suddenly stretched out all her limbs. "Pa," the egg instantly shattered into pieces, and out popped a tiny little girl.

Chapter 151: A Shocking Discovery

The meat-eating little girl had returned.

"Hug! Hug!" once Hu Niu caught sight of Ling Han, she immediately pounced into Ling Han's arms, and buried her head into his embrace.

Yi? Yi? Yi?

Ling Han examined the little girl from head to toe, but why did he not find any horns, wings, or anything of the sort? This little girl looked like there was... absolutely no difference from before?

What was going on here?

After he had eaten two portions of the godly medicine, the first portion refined his flesh and skin, and the second portion reforged his bones. He had practically gone through a complete transformation, and the changes he experienced were extremely distinct. But Hu Niu didn't show the slightest bit of change at all. If it was just as it looked then wouldn't it have been a waste of the last portion of godly medicine?

'No, no, no, no, some changes cannot be seen from the surface. There must have been a great change to the little girl's body.'

"Sniff! Sniff!" Hu Niu wrinkled her nose, and suddenly, a ferocious light shone from her eyes. With a "teng," she leaped out of Ling Han's arms and regained the look of a wild beast. All her four limbs pushed off from the floor, and "xiu," she rapidly jumped out of the room.

"Aiya!" Ling Han immediately realized that Hu Niu must have used her nose to sense the presence of the Liu sisters.

This little girl was like a wild beast, not only having a very good nose, but also a very strong territorial nature. Now that there were two strangers who had entered into her territory, the little girl's ferocious character would naturally be roused.

Ling Han hurriedly chased after her.

"Peng!"

In a few leaps, Hu Niu had arrived at her own room. Without any further thoughts, she immediately barged in, and the door was actually easily shattered to pieces by the force. Like a little tiger, she pounced in, her mouth slightly open and her hands formed into claws that could attack at any moment.

"Damn scoundrel, you indeed had evil intentions!" since Liu Ru Er saw Ling Han's bare upper body, her heart has been beating like a drum and her face was as red as blood. There was no way she would have been able to go back to sleep, so when she heard the sound of the door breaking, she naturally thought that Ling Han's lust was stimulated and he had come to force himself on her. She instantly bounced up, and struck out her palm in an attack.

"Peng!"

Her palm struck Hu Niu's body. Though her previous power had dropped to the bottom, after a few days of recovery, her power had already reached the level of Body Refining Tier. This palm strike of hers actually caused Hu Niu to be flung back.

However, she immediately realized that something was off. That was not a huge pervert, or a great lecher she had struck, but rather a little girl.

"Xiu," Ling Han came in right after, stretched out his arms and caught Hu Niu who had been flung back by her blow.

"Damn, damn scoundrel!" Liu Ru Er could not stop herself from cursing when she saw Ling Han was there. And after such a big commotion, Liu Feng Er woke up as well. Her eyes swept over the scene in front of her, obviously a bit confused about what was going on.

"Kill! Kill!" Hu Niu struggled in Ling Han's arms, and there was no sign that she had suffered any injury from the blow.

Ling Han was relieved, and said with a smile, "It's a misunderstanding. The place that the two of you are staying in now is this little girl's room. She was not here these few days, but has returned just now and discovered that you two have taken over her room, so she thought the two of you were enemies. That's why she is a little agitated."

That was not just agitation. She looked like she practically wanted to devour them!

The Liu sisters thought as they took in Hu Niu's very ferocious appearance. However, this place belonged to Ling Han, so he was the one who had the final say in things.

"Haha, it's late so we won't disturb your rest," Ling Han said with a laugh, and stepped back out. However, there was no way to close the door that Hu Niu had shattered. Never mind, he'd deal with the door tomorrow.

After he had returned to his own bedroom, Ling Han pushed Hu Niu down to sit on the bed, and said, "Little girl, those two girls are temporarily considered to be friends, so don't attack them."

Hu Niu pouted to show her displeasure. She did not like other living creatures trespassing into her territory, but since Ling Han had already said so, she could only accept it. However, little girls would be little girls, and she quickly forgot about her displeasure. She clung to Ling Han, and said, "Hug! Hug!"

Ling Han laughed loudly, and examined Hu Niu closely a second time, yet could not detect any kind of changes on her at all. He felt it very strange.

"That's not right!"

He immediately shook his head. Hu Niu had sustained a blow from Liu Ru Er just now, but did not suffer any injury at all. There was a definite upgrade to the little girl's physical body, but to

exactly what extent, that would need to be confirmed through continuously increasing the force of attack.

Forget it, he'd just think about it later.

Seeing that there was a faint light in the sky, Ling Han decided not to sleep any longer, and chose to begin cultivation instead.

He sat down cross-legged and began to circulate the Five Elements Heaven Grade Skill. His Heaven Grade Spirit Base trembled lightly, and immediately started to swallow and suck in the Spiritual Qi around him like a whale. After he had taken the godly medicine and upgraded his bones, flesh, and veins, the speed at which he could absorb Spiritual Qi had also increased quite a bit.

It was not that his Spirit Base had become more powerful, but because his veins had become cleaner, which naturally allowed Spiritual Qi to flow through his veins more smoothly than before. This would also have the effect of increasing the speed of his cultivation.

Of course, this was also due to how awesome his Spirit Base was. Otherwise, after absorbing so much Spiritual Qi, if he could not manage to refine it into his own Origin Power in time, what would be the point?

At the end, he swallowed an Ancient Clear Pill to further speed up his cultivation.

Hu Niu watched him for a moment before getting bored, and imitated him in sitting cross-legged.

Ling Han immediately felt something was off. Because there had suddenly appeared the eye of a hurricane next to him that was absorbing Spiritual Qi, and fighting with him over the Spiritual Qi around them, causing his cultivation speed to drop drastically in a single instant.

His eyes snapped open and saw how Hu Niu was sitting cross-legged in a very serious manner, and there was actually a solemn

expression on her little face.

‘Ya!’

Though he was already sure, he was still very shocked when he confirmed the fact with his own eyes.

...Hu Niu actually awoke her own Spirit Base and had officially stepped onto the path of a cultivator!

How inconceivable. This little girl was so young!

Typically, one would only awaken his Spirit Base at about eleven or twelve years old. Even if one managed to awaken his Spirit Base early, that would be one or two years earlier at most. However, this little girl awoke her Spirit Base seven or eight years ahead of time. Moreover, based on the extent she was snatching away the Spiritual Qi just now, Hu Niu's Spirit Base was definitely Heaven Grade, and could even be a match for his own.

One had to know that his Spirit Base had all five elements, and was one of the top-rated even among Heaven Grade Spirit Bases. Then what was the little girl's Spirit Base?

Ling Han concentrated his divine sense into his eyes, and used a sliver of the spiritual power he had retained from his last life to gaze into Hu Niu's Dantian.

‘What?!’

Ling Han felt a sudden pain in his eyes, and quickly turned his head. He rubbed his eyes with his hand and actually found traces of blood on his hand. But he did not bother about this now, because he was still astonished by what he had actually witnessed just a moment ago.

‘Was that real?’

He saw Hu Niu's Spirit Base, but was that really a Spirit Base?

Ling Han felt this was inconceivable, and his entire body experienced a coldness that came from a layer of cold sweat.

...In Hu Niu's Dantian, that Spirit Base was actually a slumbering person!

That was a magnificent beauty, and though her eyes were tightly closed, causing her beauty to pale quite a few shades, she was still disturbingly beautiful. Even Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan seemed to pale in comparison with this sleeping beauty.

There was no mistake. It was definitely that magnificent beauty that was absorbing Spiritual Qi, and her efficiency at absorbing Spiritual Qi was not the least beneath him.

Ling Han had never seen such a Spirit Base that could actually take the form of a human being!

But this was not what caused him to feel cold. When he had been staring at this magnificent beauty, her eyes suddenly snapped open, and a terrifying killing intent actually sliced to him through his own divine sense. If the black tower had not trembled slightly at an appropriate time, most likely, he would not just suffer his eyes bleeding, but have his divine sense completely obliterated.

Chapter 152: Weird

The spirit was the basis of a human being, and once divine sense was destroyed, what was left behind would only be an empty shell.

Just now, Ling Han had nearly stepped through the gates of hell.

‘Curiosity really killed the cat!’ Ling Han shook his head. If there had not been a monster inside his body as well, he would definitely have landed in a horrible state just now.

Without question, the godly medicine activated some kind of "power" in Hu Niu, or awakened her, which should have happened at least after another four or five years.

Yet a very weird feeling rose up in Ling Han, because that Spirit Base within Hu Niu's body, that magnificent beauty, gave him a more powerful feeling than any ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier! In his last life, the Sword Emperor and the Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden had been the strongest existences among the ranks of Heaven Tier elites, yet neither of them had caused him to feel such heavy pressure before.

He was well aware that even if he had recovered the power he had at Heaven Tier, he would be completely defenseless facing such a being, just like how his body was easily shattered by a shockwave from the black tower in his last life.

This was definitely not a power that belonged to the mortal plane!

The black tower was already a great mystery on its own, taking his body as its new home, but Hu Niu was even more mysterious, having what he suspected to be an ultimate being taking the place of her Spirit Base!

Yet she was obviously just a little girl in Body Refining Tier.

But when he thought about it, weren't the two of them quite similar?

Could that magnificent beauty be developed by some kind of ultimate treasure? If that was really the case, then forming into a very real human-like appearance did not seem that strange.

To hell with it!

Ling Han pressed a hand to his aching head. This lifetime was really weird. He had just seen the corpse of an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier that he suspected had been killed off in a battle royale against an uncountable number of Heaven Tier elites not too long ago, a great amount of Level Nine Spiritual Tools floating out with the flow of an underground river, and there even appeared a rogue godly medicine and the formation of a Strange Fire.

And now, there was a being that was likely above Heaven Tier within Hu Niu's body, while he had an ultimate powerful entity—the black tower—residing inside his body.

It seemed as if Shattering Void Tier had become cheap all of a sudden.

Hu Niu obviously did not have much patience. She only cultivated for a short while before stopping, and when she saw Ling Han was looking at her, she grinned and jumped into Ling Han's arms. She rubbed her stomach and declared, "Hungry!"

That's right. The little girl had not had any food for quite a few days.

"Cultivate obediently, and I'll go and cook. If you don't cultivate obediently, you won't get any meat." Ling Han issued a condition.

"Oh." Hu Niu pouted, obviously not very happy. She did not like cultivation. It was too dull and boring.

Ling Han went into the kitchen to cook. Since the glutton was back, the food that had accumulated like a little mountain here would most likely be completely finished within a few days—he guessed that Hu Niu's appetite must have increased considerably

after such a drastic transformation.

He was already prepared, but the great increase to Hu Niu's appetite still gave him a scare.

Her appetite... actually more than doubled!

"Thank goodness I have money now, and can take advantage of the Third Imperial Prince's kindness. Otherwise, I really would not be able to keep this little girl fed," he said, shaking his head.

When they were half-way done with their meal, the Liu sisters had also awakened. When they arrived at the kitchen, they were shocked and their faces could not help but twitch.

That really was a little girl?

When she saw the girls, Hu Niu immediately moved as if she was protecting her food, her eyes glaring ferociously at the two girls. A low growl came out of her throat, and she had a violent expression that said, 'if you dare to stretch out your hands, I will bite off your heads.'

"Damn scoundrel, you really are a pervert!" Liu Ru Er's face paled drastically. There was a little girl living in the home of a young man, so this was obviously a very big problem.

"I am not a pervert, just a bad man," Ling Han said, editing Gu Feng Hua's trademark words.

"Little girl, come over here quickly, we'll protect you!" Liu Ru Er beckoned a hand at Hu Niu. However, in Hu Niu's eyes, such a move was seen as a challenge, causing the little girl to leap onto the table. She had all four limbs on the table, and looked ready to move at any moment.

"Forget it, don't argue with someone ignorant." Ling Han picked Hu Niu up, and stuffed a piece of meat into the little girl's mouth in passing, causing the little girl to instantly become happy as she chewed on it.

"Who are you calling ignorant?" Liu Ru Er asked, not accepting Ling Han's opinion of her.

Ling Han snickered, and said, "The two of you have been recovering your wounds here in my place for quite a few days, right? Isn't it about time for you to pay rent or something of the sort?"

"Heng, so you want money?" Liu Ru Er said in a derogatory tone, "How much do you want?"

"Then I'll casually collect this amount per person." Ling Han raised a single finger.

"A million coins?" Liu Ru Er humphed, "Deal! However, once you take our money, we'll become your employers, so we will have the right to command you!"

"Che, a million coins?" Ling Han shook his head, "You have to understand that if I hand you over, the two of you will definitely die, so what we're talking about now is the price of selling yourselves. Do you really think a mere million coins is appropriate?"

"Sell, selling ourselves? You're the one selling yourself!" Liu Ru Er suddenly paled, but immediately said, "Then how much do you want, ten or twenty million?" she shocked even herself when she said ten million.

It was not because they could not earn such a large amount of money, but because they did not have so much money saved up, since they had just recently started their careers.

"That's wrong. Beauties like yourselves would have to be at least worth a hundred million, right? Don't be modest with me. Why don't I deliver the two of you to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion to ask how good the business would be for two beauties in Gushing Spring Tier?" Ling Han appeared to be very impassioned and generous.

Liu Ru Er blinked. She felt that agreeing and disagreeing were both not an option.

If she agreed, where would she get so much money from? If she disagreed, then wouldn't that be lowering her own value?

She did not have enough ability to adapt, and was instantly left stuttering, obviously at a loss at what to say.

"Brother Ling, don't bully my little sister so much," Liu Feng Er smiled faintly.

"You damn scoundrel, you were actually playing with me!" Liu Ru Er finally reacted, an angered expression on her face.

"Silly girl," Ling Han shook his head, "If you want to stay here, then you'll have to follow my rules. Doing something like entering without knocking would be what a scoundrel would do."

Liu Ru Er knew that he was talking about how she had accidentally peeked at him bathing the night before and could not help feeling very embarrassed. She pouted. She was not a scoundrel. Who would have guessed that there would be someone bathing in the kitchen in the middle of the night? Were you washing pig's feet, getting ready to cook pig trotters?

When she thought this, she could not help but show a weird smile. This was what was called a mental victory.

"In the future, preparing all meals will be your responsibility," Ling Han said.

After he told Hu Niu not to come into conflict with the other two girls, he told her to cultivate obediently. At first, he wanted to visit Mo Gao, but when he recalled that Mo Gao should have begun his seclusion to break through to Gushing Spring Tier, he could only give up.

Ling Han switched to a farther location to cultivate to avoid staying too close to the little girl. Otherwise, they would be fighting over the Spiritual Qi in the vicinity, and it would impede

the greatest display of the advantage of a Heaven Grade Spirit Base.

After cultivating for about half a day, Ling Han smiled in satisfaction. After about another five or six days, he would be able to advance to the next level, and not too long after, he would be able to give Feng Yan a very big surprise.

At about noon, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both arrived, bringing with them a big piece of news.

Chapter 153: Feng Yan's Background

Early that morning, the imperial guards arrived at the Academy to apprehend Feng Yan, but encountered resistance from him. In the end, it became a big issue that even alerted Lian Guang Zu who placed his full support behind Feng Yan and expelled the imperial guards from the Academy grounds.

It was either the Third Imperial Prince's command or Lady Yan's complaint that caused the imperial guards to come today to apprehend Feng Yan. Feng Yan had committed a great offense against these two high-ranking individuals just the day before, after all.

Yet Feng Yan was actually so recklessly bold as to resist arrest, and Lian Guang Zu actually defended him fully. This was really such a great shock that no one could believe it.

Where did Feng Yan get such courage from? And why would Lian Guang Zu protect him to the point that he did not mind going against the Imperial Family?

Since neither Feng Yan nor Lian Guang Zu said a word, everyone could only make their wild guesses. Could it be that Feng Yan was Lian Guang Zu's illegitimate son?

It was only barely over half a day, and this kind of gossip had already spread throughout the Academy.

After that, Feng Luo even issued a warrant to collect all the evidence that proved Ling Han's criminal behavior and misdeeds. Anyone who was willing to volunteer with information would be given a reward.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan had yet to know what had happened last night, so they were both puzzled and indignant.

"Is this Feng Luo a cockroach or something? He is obviously just a piece of trash, yet can always manage to frolic around." Ling Han

was also at a loss for words. Feng Luo was undoubtedly expelled out of the Academy, yet in the blink of an eye, he was enrolled back in again.

"That's because of Feng Yan," Liu Yu Tong pointed out.

"Whom exactly has this guy managed to cling to that even Old Man Lian would protect him to this extent?" Ling Han said uncomprehendingly, "Even if he really was the old man's illegitimate son, he should not be doting on him to this extent."

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both rolled their eyes at him. Only Ling Han would dare say something like that about a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite.

"Now, Feng Luo declares that he will be collecting the proof of your misdeeds, obviously intending to embarrass you," Li Si Chan said. Feng Luo did not have an official rank in the government, and the proof that he was collecting would not be considered valid at all. Thus, he was only planning to embarrass Ling Han, and bring dishonor to his name.

Ling Han rubbed his nose, and said, "Looks like Feng Yan really considers me quite important. He not only wants to kill me, but also wants me to be completely defeated and fallen from grace."

Both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan frowned. Now that Lian Guang Zu was covering for Feng Yan, even the Rain Emperor would have to give him some face. Thus, as Feng Yan did not break the laws of the Empire openly, such as committing murder in the streets of the Imperial City or something like that, he would be able to act like a tyrant, and it would be overlooked.

Ling Han could actually do the same as well. He had the two big bosses of alchemy standing behind him, and in truth, had more confidence he could do so than Feng Yan.

But it was obvious that Lian Guang Zu was not Feng Yan's main backer.

"Feng Yan's support should come from outside Rain Country," Ling Han said with a tone of certainty at the end.

Feng Yan had once said boastfully that he would even be able to kill Ling Han in public after three months. What did that imply? It meant that he did not even care about the authority of the Rain Emperor.

There was a powerful warrior of Flower Blooming Tier overseeing things for Rain Country, but since Feng Yan was able to ignore the Imperial Family of Rain Country, that obviously meant that the backer behind him would at least be in Flower Blossoming Tier, and there was no other person at this cultivation level in Rain Country aside from the mysterious member of the Imperial Family.

Ling Han rubbed his chin. Should he go and get a license for an Earth Grade alchemist?

If he had the status of an Earth Grade alchemist, even powerful warriors of Spiritual Infant Tier would have to treat him courteously, what more a mere Flower Blossoming Tier martial artist. However, the highest level of license that could be achieved in Rain Country was Black Grade high level, because there was no alchemist at a higher level than that. Thus, there was no one able to bear witness to his ability.

‘Temporarily, the rank of Black Grade high level alchemist should be enough. I believe that even a Flower Blossoming Tier elite would have to give them some face,’ Ling Han thought. If he had the status of an alchemist to protect him, then at least no one would dare to oppose him openly.

‘I had not planned to return to the path of alchemy in this life, but who asked me to be so eye-catching that I have already attracted big trouble at the mere level of Element Gathering Tier.’ He heaved a sigh, but there was only an uncaring expression on his face.

In his last life, he had been an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier, and in the last period of his life, he travelled to various dangerous historical sites, where he encountered dangers that were all a hundred times more serious than what he was facing now. Yet, he had still managed to survive till now.

As for Feng Yan, he would be only a small bump on his path to maturity.

There were only a few things that Ling Han would care about now. The first one was that mysterious black tower, the second would be the Spirit Base in Hu Niu's Dantian that had actually taken the form of a magnificent beauty who could even open her eyes, and the third would be what those four disciples of his had encountered.

"That Feng Luo is really too despicable. He is obviously a vile character. I will ask master to take action and expel him. I don't believe that Master Lian would persist in taking him back into the Martial Arts Department," Li Si Chan said, unwilling to give in.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "No need, no need. I want to take a look at what kind of tricks these two brothers can come up with!"

Since Feng Yan wanted to kill him, he had no reason to be reserved. When he had accumulated enough power, he would be sure to kill Feng Yan and his brother. He would also deal with Hu Bo, who had dared to kill so many at the Ling Clan Residence—how could Ling Han spare him after such an offense?

Aside from these three, there was also Chen Yun Xiang.

It was also about time to sort this old man out.

Ling Han turned to Liu Yu Tong, and asked, "What kind of business does the Chen Clan do?"

"Clothing," Liu Yu Tong answered instantly. Obviously, she had done her own research, and was still guilty about how she hadn't

been able to deal with Chen Yun Xiang previously.

"Do something for me. In front of every store belonging to the Chen Clan, open a clothing store and sell the products at ten percent below cost price," Ling Han said as he handed over some money to Liu Yu Tong.

Liu Yu Tong immediately understood his purpose. He was planning to strike down the Chen Clan financially. The reason why Chen Yun Xiang had been able to succeed so many times was because of the wealth of the Chen Clan which allowed him to hire the members of the Earth and Water Faction to help him kidnap little girls.

If he lost all his wealth, then the Sun Clan would only deign to grant him safety.

"All right. I know what to do," she said with a nod, "However, this could possibly be a bottomless pit. Are you sure you want to use up your money like this?"

Ling Han smiled, and said, "Don't worry. Money is not a problem for me."

For a high-ranking alchemist, money would of course be no issue. He would only need to concoct a few Black Grade high level alchemical pills, and it was guaranteed that people would be fighting over them.

Liu Yu Tong was finally relieved. She was about to say something else, when she suddenly wrinkled her nose and inhaled deeply, before asking, "Why is there female fragrance here?"

"Oh, I just took in two homeless girls," Ling Han said causally.

"En?" Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan exchanged a look before putting on vigilant expressions. They asked at the same time, "Where are they?"

Yi, when did they become so coordinated?

"Greetings, ladies!" Liu Feng Er and her sister walked out together. Four such great beauties all gathered in one space seemed to make the whole house a considerably brighter place.

The four girls chattered continuously, and Ling Han was soon bored by their conversation. He walked out and xiu , Hu Niu suddenly raced out from somewhere to hang onto him. She kept swinging back and forth from her hold on his body like a monkey.

"Play! Play!" the little girl kept waving Ling Han's arm, her expression pleading.

"All right, let's go play," Ling Han laughed loudly. He had just stepped outside and was about to leave when he saw a young man approach him. Upon seeing Ling Han, the young man immediately bowed down in respect, and greeted, "Zhu Wu Jiu hereby pays respect to Master!"

Chapter 154: Zhu Wu Jiu Convinced

Ling Han swept a glance over him, and could not help frowning as he said, "Only in the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier? You're advancing a bit too slowly!"

Zhu Wu Jiu could not stop his face from twitching.

It had only been ten plus days, and he had managed to directly leap from the late period of the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier to the peak period, and even managed to break through all the way to the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier. This was enough to make him ecstatic, and also made him finally believe Ling Han's words—that he could really help him surpass Nangong Ji in half a year's time.

He desired greater power. On one hand, he wanted to avenge his beloved, while on the other, desire for power was deeply engraved in the blood and bones of each martial artist in the first place. Thus, as soon as he had broken through to the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier, he went to see Ling Han—he would be too embarrassed to see Ling Han if he had not broken through first.

But he had never imagined that Ling Han would still resent him for being too slow!!

"Ai, you have the constitution of Silver Moon and the first time you start cultivating the Silver Moon Arts, you should have experienced a sudden explosion of your bloodline which would stimulate a spike-like improvement in your cultivation level. But, you have only advanced slightly. Looks like your bloodline is not very pure." Ling Han shook his head, looking a bit disappointed.

But when he thought about it, this was actually very normal. After all, the Silver Moon Race was long rumored to have been completely wiped out, so Zhu Wu Jiu's bloodline was definitely not very pure. Who knows, it may have been a recessive gene which allowed the bloodline to appear in him, while both his parents may

very possibly only have normal constitution.

"Take this. Break through to Gushing Spring Tier within one month. If you are unable to, you do not need to come see me again." Ling Han tossed a pill bottle over to him. There were ten Ancient Clear Pills inside this pill bottle.

Break through to Gushing Spring Tier in a single month?

Zhu Wu Jiu experienced a shock. How could that be possible! He was sure he would be able to break through to the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier or even reach the peak period of the ninth layer within one month's time, but to break through to Gushing Spring Tier? That required him to transform his Origin Nucleus into a Gushing Spring of Origin Power, and involved enough comprehension and understanding of his cultivation. Spending even three to five years—eight or ten years even—to successfully break through was already quite good, but a single month?

Just look, there were so many disciples in Hu Yang Academy, but how many of them were actually in Gushing Spring Tier?

Less than a hundred, and the majority of these people were above twenty five years old!

But if he did not manage to break through to Gushing Spring Tier in one month, then he would not even be qualified to become Ling Han's subordinate?

Immediately, a strong wave of rebellious feelings rose up within Zhu Wu Jiu. If it had been anyone else, wouldn't he have died of happiness after winning himself a chance to free himself? But Zhu Wu Jiu was a man of his word, and he also had his pride.

Being disregarded even for the lowly position of a subordinate... how could he still have face to stand tall and walk with an upright spine in future?

"Alright. Within one month, I will definitely break through to Gushing Spring Tier!" he forced out through gritted teeth.

"Go on!" Ling Han waved him off.

Zhu Wu Jiu turned and left. Behind him, Ling Han smiled. With his alchemical pills and his deliberate provocation just now, this silly boy from the Silver Moon Race should be able to break through to Gushing Spring Tier in one month, right?

"Play! Play!" Hu Niu tugged at his hand, looking very displeased.

"Alright, let's go play." Ling Han and Hu Niu exited the Academy. They toured around the Imperial City once and he dropped in the Cherishing Flower Pavilion on the way.

"Why are you here?" after being informed by the servants, Yun Shuang Shuang very quickly appeared in front of him.

Ling Han shook his head, and asked, "Have you been beaten up or scolded by someone that you are venting your anger on me?"

"You are the one that has been beaten up!" Yun Shuang Shuang said irritably. She was irate about how Ling Han always appeared serene.

Though she hated it when others would look pervertedly at her, as a beautiful woman, she would naturally have her own pride. However, when Ling Han looked at her, it was as if he was looking at air. She would of course be extremely displeased by this, and whenever she set eyes upon this young man, she would have the urge to grit her teeth.

"Here, this is the Permanent Pill that was promised to Lady Yan. Take it." Ling Han took out a jade bottle and placed it on the table.

"It... it's already concocted?" Yun Shuang Shuang immediately asked, filled with pleasant surprise and no longer bothering about acting quarrelsome.

"An alchemical pill at this kind of level, would it still require a few days' preparation before beginning the concoction process?" Ling Han clicked his tongue.

Yun Shuang Shuang could not help but become suspicious. Even two big bosses of alchemy like Fu Yuan Sheng and Wu Song Lin had shaken their heads at this Permanent Pill, but after only one night, Ling Han actually brought over the completed pill. Could he be lying?

"I can't be bothered to talk too long with a silly little girl like you. Just hand the pill over to Lady Yan. I'm leaving." Ling Han picked up Hu Niu. The little girl had played too wildly and was tired out—she had fallen fast asleep.

Silly little girl?

Yun Shuang Shuang almost transformed into a vicious hag and pounced on him. This brat had to be blind. Couldn't he see her enchanting figure and curves? What kind of silly little girl have you seen that would have such protruding breasts and raised behind like her?

"And you are a silly boy who is still wet behind the ears!" she countered.

"Bye, silly little girl," Ling Han waved at her, and strode out.

"Wayaya, I'm going to die from fury!" Yun Shuang Shuang stomped her feet in anger, but after a while, she said to herself, "Whether it's real or fake, I'll let Milady take a look at it first." She quickly went into a courtyard in the deepest parts of Cherishing Flower Pavilion. Lady Yan would usually be here if there was nothing that required her attention.

"Milady!" she stepped into the courtyard and knocked lightly on the door.

"Come in." Lady Yan's voice was heard from within, and it sounded a bit tired and helpless.

Yun Shuang Shuang pushed open the door and entered. It was a bedroom that she had stepped into. Lady Yan was currently sitting at the bedside, while on the bed lay a delicate and pretty-looking

youth who looked to be only about fifteen or sixteen years old. The youth's appearance actually had a forty to fifty percent resemblance with Lady Yan.

"Lady Yan, Ling Han came over just now and delivered the Permanent Pill," Yun Shuang Shuang said softly, though she knew that no matter how loudly she spoke, she would not be able to awaken that sleeping youth.

"What!" Lady Yan suddenly stood, her face filled with shock.

"This is the Permanent Pill that Ling Han has brought over." Yun Shuang Shuang took out the pill bottle that Ling Han had given to her. Though she was very doubtful about the authenticity of this pill bottle, she did not speak out of turn and left it for Lady Yan to decide.

Lady Yan extended a hand and received the pill bottle. Because she was too excited, her hands were even uncontrollably trembling. She had just glimpsed a sliver of hope yesterday night, but had never imagined that this sliver of hope would become reality today.

It was not that she had not considered the possibility that this pill might be fake, but in front of the colossal hope, she chose to ignore this possibility.

She opened the bottle, and inside lay only three pills. They were yellowish-red in color and had a sweet and bitter smell.

"This color and smell is the same as what Master Yang Jun had described!" she looked even more excited. She looked at the youth that was asleep on the bed, gritted her teeth, and said, "Shuang Shuang, get me some water."

Yun Shuang Shuang knew that Lady Yan had made her decision, and quickly went to pour a cup of clear water and brought it over.

Lady Yan pried open the youth's teeth, and squeezed in a Permanent Pill. Meanwhile, Yun Shuang Shuang neared with the

cup. She tipped the cup, and the pill was washed down into the youth's body by the water.

The two females looked at the youth anxiously, and after only a while, the eyelids of the youth actually twitched!

"Shuang Shuang, did you see? Did you see?" Lady Yan asked in a trembling voice.

"Yes, Milady! I saw it!" Yun Shuang Shuang nodded quickly.

"Ten years! Ten years!" tears rolled down Lady Yan's cheeks, "Tian'er can finally wake up!"

"Congratulations, Milady!" Yun Shuang Shuang smiled widely.

Chapter 155: Slander

"What do you girls think? Is Elder Brother Disciple Feng Yan really Master Lian's illegitimate son?" inside the female hostel of Hu Yang Academy, a young girl with a freckled face asked the other three girls with her, a gossipy expression all over her face.

If Ling Han was here, he would definitely recognize that one of the girls here was Shen Zi Yan.

"I would assume so. If not, why would Master Lian be so protective over him? That would mean going against the Imperial Family!" a young girl whose hair was tied in two braids said.

"Maybe, but who knows if he might be the illegitimate son of his illegitimate son?" a green-clad young girl asked.

Shen Zi Yan did not say a word. She had been the most talented student in Gray Cloud Academy, which was something that had always given her great pride. But from the moment she entered Hu Yang Academy, she knew that she was only the frog at the bottom of a well. Anyone here was no weaker than her in terms of talent, and the majority was stronger than her.

Moreover, she came from a lowly background, and in this Academy that had gathered all the youths from noble backgrounds, she was naturally unable to raise her head. Within a short month, all her pride and arrogance had been rubbed out.

"What kind of enmity does Elder Brother Disciple Feng have with that Ling Han that he would let his brother collect evidence of Ling Han's misdeeds, and would even promise a reward for information?" the braided girl asked curiously.

When Shen Zi Yan heard this, her eyes suddenly lit up.

"Younger Sister Disciple Shen, you came from Da Yuan City, and Elder Brother Disciple Feng and that Ling Han also came from there. Do you know what kind of grievances exist between them?"

the freckled young girl asked Shen Zi Yan, suddenly recalling that the latter was also from Da Yuan City.

Shen Zi Yan's expression darkened, and she said, "Ling Han is an ignorant, incompetent, despicable, and vulgar character! Do you all know how he managed to enroll into the Academy?"

"No!" the other three girls shook their heads.

"He begged his father who used his own life to trade for this opportunity to enroll in the Academy!" Shen Zi Yan declared, smiling coldly.

"What, how could someone like that exist?" the other three girls gasped in shock.

"Of course!" Shen Zi Yan continued to smear Ling Han's name, "Have you ever heard of the Dark Demon Forest?"

"En, en, en. We've heard of it before. That is a very dangerous place that not even Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites would dare to enter!" the three girls nodded.

"I heard that more than a hundred years ago, a member of the Hu Yang Academy entered the Dark Demon Forest and lost an ultimate treasure inside, so Ling Han's father managed to make a deal with the Academy. He would enter the Dark Demon Forest to retrieve that ultimate treasure, and Ling Han would be able to enter Hu Yang Academy," Shen Zi Yan said.

"He's really too despicable!"

"What an unfilial son!"

The freckled young girl and the other two girls all shook their heads at this. He was practically scum, actually asking his father to take such a great risk and endure formidable dangers just for himself to be able to enter the Academy.

Shen Zi Yan smirked coldly. Rumor had the highest demand, and within a few days, Ling Han would become a rat that everyone

would want to throttle. She despised Ling Han—this despise had begun since the betrothal contract between Ling Han and herself had been set down. However, after Ling Han's abrupt rise to power, this despise had transformed completely into hatred.

She absolutely did not want others to laugh at her behind her back, mocking her for being blind and missing out on the perfect husband. Thus, she wanted to utterly discredit Ling Han and for him to lose all standing and good reputation.

Ling Han advanced very quickly, and after a mere four days, he had broken through to the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier.

But he was not the fastest. There was another that was even more of a monster than he was.

Hu Niu.

The little girl's Spirit Base was not only very weird, it also possessed an ability to absorb Spiritual Qi that was no weaker than Ling Han. Moreover, after she had hatched out from the egg, she had somehow obtained a cultivation technique that was completely able to suit the rapid speed at which a Heaven Grade Spirit Base absorbed Spiritual Qi.

Merely from this aspect, she was definitely not any slower than Ling Han. More importantly, she could still eat.

Her ability of being able to transform any food that she had consumed into her own Origin Power had not disappeared after she had managed to awaken her Spirit Base. On the other hand, this ability had become even more powerful. Thus, after a mere five days, the little girl had reached the ninth layer of Body Refining Tier.

However, he did not know if the barrier separating the various major Tiers would be able to detain her for a while. After all,

breaking through this barrier involved the comprehension and understanding of her cultivation level, and energy was not the only thing necessary to break through.

And yet, this was completely no issue for her.

After a day, Hu Niu quietly stepped into Element Gathering Tier, so smoothly as if it was as easy as drinking water for her.

Ling Han did not know what to say anymore. Could Hu Niu also be the reincarnation of a powerful, ultimate existence like him? That was not impossible. After all, the Spirit Base in the little girl's Dantian was really too weird. It not only took the form of a magnificent beauty, it could even open its eyes and had almost obliterated Ling Han's spirit.

And in the eyes of the Liu sisters, these two people, both big and small, were undoubtedly both monsters. They had watched as the cultivation levels of these two soared within a short few days' time, making them feel that this was completely unreal.

Indeed, their cultivation levels were higher than Ling Han and Hu Niu. However, one had to know that this was possible only because they had used up all the resources of the Falling Flower Court, which allowed them to reach a high layer in Gushing Spring Tier below the age of twenty. However, their future advancement could only depend on their own efforts and talent.

But when they looked at the monstrous speed that these two were advancing with, it was obvious they could continue to advance in this manner even in the higher realms, and that was the really terrifying thing.

Ling Han wanted to use Hu Niu's cultivation technique as a reference, but the little girl could not describe it clearly no matter how hard she tried. She could only express that it was as if this cultivation technique was something she knew instinctively, and naturally knew how to circulate this cultivation technique. She did not need to understand it, nor was she able to recite it out.

On the other side, because of Shen Zi Yan, Ling Han's name as a 'despicable son' had spread throughout the Academy, and everyone thought that Ling Han had forced his father to sell his life to be able to enter into the Academy, causing them to be disgusted by his unfilial actions.

In this manner, Feng Luo became the representative of righteousness. The matter of Wei He Le's expulsion had even been brought to the surface again, as some suggested for a retrial to take place. Who knew if Wei He Le had been wronged.

"What do we do now? Everyone is talking bad about you." Liu Yu Tong came over and gritted her teeth naturally as she mentioned the rumors. Anyone who had come from Da Yuan City would naturally know that Ling Han had entered the Academy because he had gotten the first place in the Tournament, but the mass spreading of rumors confused right from wrong, and no one would believe the truth.

"I know I am innocent, and if others want to wag their tongues, just let them be. But if they dare to say these things in front of me, I'll punch out their whole mouth of teeth," Ling Han said uncaringly. As someone who had once been an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier, he would naturally not care about what others think of him.

When he displayed invincible martial arts ability, all rumors would be naturally destroyed.

Kou, kou, kou. A knock was heard from the door, and because the door was not closed, a beautiful face popped in and said, "Is Mr Ling here?"

Liu Yu Tong turned to look at her, and could not stop a strange expression from appearing on her. Ling Han's luck with the ladies was really a bit too strong. He had just stepped into the Imperial City for a short time, and he had already gotten to know so many different beautiful girls?

Ling Han also looked at this visitor, and could not help but smile as he said, "Silly little girl, why are you looking for me?"

The beautiful girl was Yun Shuang Shuang. At first, she had been in a good mood, but when she heard Ling Han's words, she immediately became furious, and said snappily, "Milady would like to invite you to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion so she can thank you personally!"

"Oh, when?" Ling Han asked.

"If Mr Ling does not have anything important going on, then please come over tonight."

"All right!" Ling Han nodded. Indeed, he did not have anything pressing to do tonight.

Chapter 156: Go Earn Money at Heaven's Medicine Pavilion

"I'll go with you!" Liu Yu Tong immediately said. She would naturally know what kind of place the Cherishing Flower Pavilion was—a money squandering establishment for men. How could she let Ling Han go without worry?

It was only now that Yun Shuang Shuang turned to look at Liu Yu Tong, bowed faintly, and said, "So it is the princess of the Liu Clan. Shuang Shuang has been impolite."

Liu Yu Tong looked a bit awkward at being addressed so because she did not know Yun Shuang Shuang. However, in her eyes, all girls who came from the Cherishing Flower Pavilion were unbearably filthy and not characters she would deign to know anyways. Moreover, Yun Shuang Shuang was intending to drag Ling Han to play at that kind of place, which would increase her antipathy even more.

Thus, she only gave a reserved nod, and did not even spare her a courteous reply.

Yun Shuang Shuang could not help but show an enraged expression. She was Lady Yan's adopted daughter, and did not need to receive customers. Thus, she similarly had a high opinion of herself. However, in the eyes of a noble princess like Liu Yu Tong, she was indeed unable to escape the reality that she came from the red-light district. This was very upsetting to her.

"Lady Yan has made it clear. We are only inviting Mr Ling alone!" she did not clash with Liu Yu Tong head on, but simply used the name of Lady Yan to tactfully decline her.

"Niu, Niu go too!" Hu Niu scrambled out and clung onto Ling Han's arm, completely looking like a spoiled child.

"That's right. We'll all go!" Liu Yu Tong emphasized. With Hu

Niu there, even if Ling Han was driven wild by passion, he would have to behave himself.

"Just let them come with me." Ling Han picked Hu Niu up, "The older one would still listen to me, but even I won't be able to settle the younger one."

"Xi xi!" Hu Niu's eyes lit up, and said happily, "Meat! Meat! Meat!"

Yun Shuang Shuang did not mind if Hu Niu went. After all, the one who had incurred her displeasure was Liu Yu Tong, but since Ling Han had already spoken, she could only say, "Then, please come to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion tonight for a chat, all three of you. I shall take my leave for now."

When she had finally left, Liu Yu Tong looked to be in a slightly better mood.

Ling Han could not help but grin, and asked, "My little female attendant, are you jealous?"

"Who, who's jealous!" Liu Yu Tong's beautiful face turned completely red instantly, as brightly splendid as a flower, becoming an extremely captivating picture.

Ling Han laughed loudly and, changing the subject, said, "How has the business of the clothing stores been?"

"Very good. We've already managed to take over most of the business of the Chen Clan. However, the Chen Clan would definitely not sit by quietly and wait for their end. Either a price war would follow, or they would send someone to create a disturbance at our stores." Liu Yu Tong frowned slightly. After all, these stores did not have the symbol of the Liu Clan on them.

Ling Han smiled softly, and said, "If they decide to stimulate a price war, it's fine. I was not planning to earn money from this business anyways. But if they dare to send someone to make a disturbance, hehe. That would give me the best excuse to pay them a visit and give them a thrashing!"

Liu Yu Tong finally understood. Indeed, if the stores were smashed, then as the owner, Ling Han would of course have a legitimate excuse to make a move. "But the Chen Clan would most likely not make a move themselves, but rather send over members of the Earth and Water Faction."

"Earth and Water Faction!" a cold light flickered in Ling Han's eyes. This faction would be willing to even do jobs like kidnapping little girls, which was evidence enough of the extent of filth in its inner workings. He had already thought of obliterating this faction.

"I deduce that the Chen Clan would not resort to force, but would rather induce a price war to see if we would back out on our own. I'll take advantage of this period of time to first deal with the Earth and Water Faction then."

Liu Yu Tong could not help but look worried at this, and said, "The Earth and Water Faction has relations with all Eight Great Clans. If you move against the Earth and Water Faction, the Eight Great Clans may interfere."

Ling Han was very displeased. In his last life, when had he ever experienced having his hands tied up like this? But who asked him to be only in Element Gathering Tier now? Even in a small place like Rain Country, he was not able to have a large amount of influence.

"Let's go to Heaven's Medicine Pavilion first. I've been spending money like water these days, so I need to earn some money first," he said after a moment of thought.

Going to Heaven's Medicine Pavilion to earn money?

A strange expression came over Liu Yu Tong's face. Who would not be spending money at Heaven's Medicine Pavilion? But this guy was the exact opposite, actually thinking of earning money at Heaven's Medicine Pavilion. However, when she recalled Ling Han's terrifying ability at alchemy, earning money at Heaven's

Medicine Pavilion seemed a very natural thing for him to do.

"Let's go. Since someone is treating us tonight, let's just have lunch outside as well!" Ling Han stepped out the door, Hu Niu in his arms.

"What about the two girls in the house?" Liu Yu Tong caught up with him. She was of course referring to the Liu sisters.

"Oh, I was already kind enough to take the two of them in, and I still have to take care of their daily meals? Just let them cook for themselves," Ling Han said with a laugh.

A captivating smile suddenly appeared on Liu Yu Tong's face. It was obvious that Ling Han had completely zero interest in the Liu sisters. Otherwise, he would not act this way. This discovery made her very happy, and even she herself felt it was very peculiar that she would be so happy.

With two beauties as company, Ling Han arrived at the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion.

"Young Master Han!" he had just stepped onto that long and wide flight of stairs when he saw an old man in his sixties also coincidentally descending the stairs. When the old man saw Ling Han, he hurriedly approached him and greeted him very respectfully.

There were four others behind this old man, and they were all his disciples. When they saw their master act this way, an expression of utter astonishment appeared on their faces.

This was Grandmaster Yuanchu Yuan they were talking about, a genuine Black Grade middle level alchemist, someone who was just one step away from being equal with the two biggest bosses of alchemy of Rain Country. But when they saw how Yuanchu could not help but bow deeply, his face filled with utter respect, it was obviously not faked. That was indeed a completely sincere display of reverence.

If Ling Han had been Wu Song Lin, or Fu Yuan Sheng, it would not be strange. Alchemy was the same as martial arts. The gap of different levels was like the gap between Heaven and Earth, but Ling Han was only a young brat. How could they not be completely dumbstruck?

They've seen a ghost. They've definitely seen a ghost. They all rubbed their eyes harshly, completely unable to believe this scene was real.

"You are..." Ling Han only recognized this person to be one of the alchemists who had observed his alchemy techniques that day, but he did not know who exactly he was.

"Pu!"

All of them felt like they were going to pass out. Just take a look, Grandmaster Yuanchu's face was practically about to touch your shoes, and you f***** don't even know who Grandmaster Yuanchu was? This really was... was... They didn't even know what else they could say anymore.

"My name is Yuanchu, and I had the good fortune to witness Young Master Han concocting alchemical pills some time ago. I have benefited greatly from observing Young Master Han, but I was completely immersed in Young Master Han's techniques that day and did not even know when you had left. I have committed a grave offense. Please forgive me, Young Master Han!" Yuanchu Yuan said in fear and trepidation.

Hiss , everyone was once again shocked. With Grandmaster Yuanchu's status, he was actually apologizing for not personally seeing Ling Han off. Who was this brat? He was absolutely terrifying.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "It's all right."

"Young Master Han, have you come to concoct alchemical pills again today?" Yuanchu asked, filled with great anticipation. He

had an indescribable confidence that as long as he could watch Ling Han concoct alchemical pills a few more times, he would definitely be able to break through to become a Black Grade high level alchemist. Thus, he would of course be very proactive.

Could this old man be able to tell the future?

Ling Han smiled, and replied, "That's right. I want to concoct a type of alchemical pill."

"Please! Please!" Yuanchu hurriedly said respectfully.

With Yuanchu escorting him, Ling Han quickly entered the Main Hall.

"Young Master Han!" Xiao Ying immediately came over to receive him, her face filled with pleasant surprise. As she had already been promoted to the position of a minor manager, she no longer needed to greet customers at the door. However, she had long wanted to see Ling Han again, and so had kept standing guard at the door recently. Finally, she had gotten her wish.

Ling Han nodded at her, causing the corners of Liu Yu Tong's lips to rise slightly—this guy was really an expert at making women fall for him!

Chapter 157: Foundation Building Pill

Ling Han only nodded at Xiao Ying before proceeding to the third floor of the palace, escorted by Yuanchu.

This was where high-ranking alchemists would concoct alchemical pills and rest.

"How about this? I won't limit the number of people today. You all can observe me concoct alchemical pills, and I'll simply accept an observation fee of a million silver coins," Ling Han said to Yuanchu.

"Pu," once again, those four disciples of Yuanchu choked.

It was simply observing the pill concoction process, and you want to collect a fee of a million silver coins... were you trying to rob them?

Even Liu Yu Tong's lips twitched at this. A million silver coins for observing him concoct pills once... even if there were only ten people, Ling Han would be able to earn ten million coins for every time he allowed them to observe, and observing him for ten times would allow him to earn a hundred million.

One hundred million!

The Liu Clan was a large clan and had many businesses under their name, so their monthly income was definitely not just a mere hundred million coins. However, if you were talking about net profit, then there was definitely not as much as a hundred million, and it was far below such a colossal amount of money.

The earnings of a single person were able to equal the earnings of an entire clan!

No wonder Ling Han was so confident he would be able to utterly defeat the Chen Clan in terms of finances. It was really too easy for him to earn money.

But still, would Yuanchu actually agree to such a condition?

"Really?" Yuanchu's eyes widened, an expression of pleasant surprise on his face, "Just a million coins?"

Damn!

Liu Yu Tong and his four disciples suddenly felt like they were going to pass out. Yuanchu actually thought one million coins was a bargain!

That was natural. If he could manage to observe Ling Han concoct alchemical pills for a few more times, he'd be able to advance up the ranks. How could that kind of benefit be measured in terms of money? Moreover, once he managed to advance to the next level, he'd be able to concoct even higher grade alchemical pills. Plus, when an alchemist advanced one level, the price of the pills he could concoct would also soar to a whole new level.

One could definitely say that every high-level alchemist was extremely wealthy, but the majority of alchemists were not hoarders of their wealth, and would instead use their immeasurable wealth to improve their ability as an alchemist. But when an alchemist had reached Black Grade, which of them would not have a few dozen millions in savings?

A million was absolutely nothing to them!

Ling Han was also not one who would attach a lot of importance to monetary wealth. Money was a worldly item, and when one's ability reached Flower Blossoming Tier, mere money would not be able to buy the cultivation resources one needed. At Flower Blossoming Tier and beyond, one would have to trade for the resources he needed with something else that his trading partner wanted.

Of course, money was still quite useful to him now. Otherwise, Ling Han would not demand an 'observation fee'.

Yuanchu Yuan immediately went off to call the other alchemists.

Very quickly, the various Black Grade alchemists all arrived one after another. However, there was a pitifully small number of Yellow Grade alchemists. There was only Li Si Chan, Qi Zhan Tai, and a few others, and the last to arrive was Fu Yuan Sheng.

"Old Fu, you're right on time. Help me collect money," Ling Han said, without any kind of reservations at all.

At this, those four disciples of Yuanchu really fainted. That was Fu Yuan Sheng he was addressing, one of the two big bosses of alchemy in Rain Country, but in Ling Han's mouth, he had become Old Fu.

Meanwhile, Fu Yuan Sheng stepped forward, his expression all smiles. It was his honor to be able to serve a Grandmaster Alchemist! Moreover, whom among all these high-ranking alchemists had not begun from the position of an alchemist's apprentice? They had all started from doing odd jobs and assisting a higher-ranking alchemist, so it was nothing new to them.

Thus, no one felt any disdain for Fu Yuan Sheng. On the other hand, they were all indescribably envious.

...To be able to serve a Grandmaster Alchemist, what an enviable task!

Everyone delightedly paid the observation fee, while only Li Si Chan and Qi Zhan Tai were exempted from paying. Black Grade alchemists really did not lack monetary wealth.

"Today, I'm going to concoct the 'Foundation Building Pill'. All of you should know that this is a Black Grade high level alchemical pill, right? I'll also get the license of a Black Grade high level alchemist while at it," Ling Han said. He would be hitting two birds with one stone in this manner.

Foundation Building Pill!

When they heard the words 'Foundation Building Pill' from Ling Han's mouth, all of them bore expressions of utter shock and

astonishment.

There were many different types of Black Grade high level alchemical pills, and of course, the level of difficulty in concocting different Black Grade high level pills varied greatly. There were four different levels of difficulty and they were: Easy, Difficult, Extremely Difficult, and Practically Impossible. Those alchemical pills that fitted into the level of Practically Impossible were actually close to the level of Earth Grade alchemical pills. Thus, an alchemist who could successfully concoct an alchemical pill in this category was almost definitely able to advance to become an Earth Grade alchemist.

Foundation Building Pill was precisely one of those pills in the 'Practically Impossible' category.

This kind of alchemical pill could help a Spiritual Ocean Tier alchemist build his foundations to prepare for the construction of his Spiritual Pedestal. It belonged to one of the rarest types of alchemical pills that could help a Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist break through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier. The reason why Foundation Building Pill was considered close to the level of Earth Grade was firstly because of the level of difficulty in concocting such a pill, and secondly because of the effects of the completed pill.

For a martial artist, three types of alchemical pills were the most valuable for them. Firstly, the type that would help them increase their cultivation; secondly, the type that would assist them in comprehending martial arts techniques; and thirdly, the type that could assist them in breaking through to the next level. If one would rank these three types of pills in order of importance and value, then it would be the exact opposite order. The most valuable, and also the rarest, was the type of pill that would help a martial artist break through to the next level.

...The type of pill that would extend one's lifespan was not included in this division because only natural treasures would have

that kind of effect. If these natural treasures were concocted into alchemical pills, the effect would be the exact opposite.

Everyone here had heard of the Foundation Pill before, but there was no one capable of successfully concocting it in a small place like Rain Country, and this included the two local big bosses of alchemy as well. If this kind of alchemical pill could be mass-produced for sale, the large number of Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites that would appear in Rain Country could be imagined.

This could very possibly overturn the balance of power in Rain Country!

Even merely the thought of it caused these people to shiver. A single alchemist... had the ability to completely change the power structure of a nation. It sounded like a fantasy.

"I need these ingredients," Ling Han said to Fu Yuan Sheng. The reason why the Foundation Building Pill was so close to the level of Earth Grade was because of the level of difficulty involved in concocting such a pill and its effects. However, there was not much difference between the ingredients necessary to concoct it and the ingredients necessary to concoct any other Black Grade high level pill, so the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion would definitely have the necessary ingredients available.

And true enough, Fu Yuan Sheng immediately nodded, and waved his hand to command someone to retrieve the ingredients that Ling Han needed from their storage room.

"How much do they cost?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

"How can we accept Young Master Han's money?" Fu Yuan Sheng hurriedly waved his hands in refusal.

Yet Ling Han was adamant and said, "You must accept!" Only if the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion accepted his payment would the Foundation Building Pill belong to him entirely. How much could the ingredients for this little thing cost? A million? Two million?

But for the completed pill... even if it was auctioned off for ten million, it would be considered a bargain. It was guaranteed that a large number of people would be fighting to buy it.

Fu Yuan Sheng could only smile sheepishly. He was intending to take the completed pill to study. One had to understand that the success rate for pills close to the level of Earth Grade was shockingly low. If the full number of pills that could be produced in a single furnace was ten, then it would be wonderful if there was a single completed pill that was successfully concocted. Two would be considered a logic-defying accomplishment.

The ingredients for a Black Grade high level pill were still very expensive. The ingredient value for a single furnace could be as high as three million, and if the furnace exploded during the concoction process, that would mean the waste of a whole three million coins. But if the pill was successfully concocted, the alchemist would be able to earn not only his investment back, but also a colossal profit.

That was what a high grade alchemical pill was worth, especially the rarer types of high grade alchemical pills.

Ling Han was completely doing business without any kind of capital. He came empty-handed, and with his 'observation fee', he earned eighteen million in one go. Now, he was only paying three million out of this eighteen million he had already earned. Moreover, with his ability, what would a pill that was merely close to the level of Earth Grade count as? Even if he only managed to produce three pills... just the thought of the value was terrifying enough.

"Please observe closely, everyone. I am going to begin now," Ling Han said. Because all these people had paid to observe him, it was only right for him to warn them beforehand.

All of them opened their eyes as wide as possible. They would not only be able to observe a Grandmaster's techniques of alchemy, but

would also be able to bear witness to the birth of a furnace of pills close to Earth Grade!

Merely the thought of it was enough to make them shiver in excitement!

Ling Han's expression gradually became utterly serious. He was never negligent in matters related to alchemy.

After taking a deep breath, he suddenly moved. His movements suddenly turned smooth and incredibly natural, filled with a unique kind of beauty that was pleasing to the eye. It was as if his movements were in line with some unknown law of nature.

Chapter 158: Concoction

"Heavens, how could merely separating the ingredients look so beautiful?"

"My goodness, to purify seven different ingredients at the same time?"

"What, I thought purifying seven different ingredients at the same time was only meant to speed up the concoction process a bit, but smelling this herbal aroma, it seems like the ingredients are far purer than those purified in the usual manner!"

"This is too shocking!"

Those who had gasped out in shock were the few Black Grade low level alchemists who had not managed to observe Ling Han's concoction process the last time. The other Black Grade middle level alchemists all bore haughty expressions, secretly calling the people who had exclaimed in shock a group of country bumpkins who had never seen the world.

Yet they did not recall that when it had been their first time seeing Ling Han concoct an alchemical pill, their reactions were also the same as these people's—making a fuss about nothing, one moment erupting in clamor, and the next stunned into silence.

However, as Ling Han proceeded further, all of them kept their eyes wide open, staring determinedly at Ling Han. This included Fu Yuan Sheng. Every move that Ling Han made seemed to guide along their focus, which would follow every move Ling Han made.

In their eyes, Ling Han was no longer just a wet-behind-the-ears youth, but an Almighty Alchemist of indomitable spirit. Every move he made was filled with an air of perfection, exuding a beautiful rhythm that only alchemists could feel.

That's right. It was rhythm or what was so-called tempo.

Alchemy could be claimed as a kind of art. An art of controlling

flames, an art of observing as the various ingredients transformed and merged together under high heat. It was an art filled with a very unique rhythm of its own.

However, everyone here could not manage to display that feeling of rhythm. They were only following the written instructions, doing everything as what the pill formula described. They would put in specific ingredients at the time that was written on the pill formula, use flames of a certain temperature at a certain time. Everything they did was done mechanically and stiffly.

Yet Ling Han had stepped beyond these limitations. Sometimes, he would obviously not be following the instructions of the pill formula strictly, but through a strange rhythm that linked all his actions together, it was a display that was too amazing for words.

Grandmaster Alchemist! No, no, no, Almighty Alchemist! Or even, Alchemist Emperor!

They all nodded their heads. If it was not for the fact that Ling Han was too young and his cultivation level too low, perhaps he would be able to concoct Earth Grade pills now, or even the mythical Heaven Grade pills.

When they thought this, they all could not help but experience shock. Theoretically, an alchemist in Element Gathering Tier would only be able to concoct Yellow Grade high level pills. This had nothing to do with the alchemist's ability, but was completely determined by the alchemist's cultivation level. There was nothing that could be done about it. If an alchemist's cultivation level was not high enough, he would not be able to produce a high enough temperature for higher grade pills.

Thus, the only result would be Ling Han's failure.

But when they looked at the brilliant alchemic abilities that Ling Han had already displayed, he really did not seem like someone who would try out something even though he obviously knew it would fail.

Unless, could it be...

They all stared at Ling Han closely as a possibility rose up in their minds.

Hong!

A crimson flame suddenly erupted from Ling Han's palm. It was the Strange Fire.

As expected!

All the alchemists exhaled in shock as they finally understood why Ling Han would dare to concoct an alchemical pill so close to Earth Grade and where his confidence came from.

Strange Fire would be able to compensate for an alchemist's shortcomings in terms of cultivation level. In fact, there were some alchemists who had found an alternative by cultivating some kind of Fire-aligned secret arts to increase the heat of their flames. This could be considered a dishonest way of doing things, but it allowed them to achieve a similar result.

Of course, when compared with a real Strange Fire, all of these secret arts could only be considered inferior.

Ling Han's movements became faster and faster, and more and more sweat beaded on his forehead. Due to the high heat rising from the furnace, signs of dehydration once again appeared on him as even his lips cracked slightly.

It felt like a blur to the eyes of all the others. The rapid speed at which Ling Han was moving caused them to slightly feel as if they were unable to follow his moves. This was because they not only had to observe carefully each move that Ling Han made, but understand the rationale and logic behind each and every move. Just contemplate for a moment about one move in their heads, and they would have missed out on quite a number of consecutive movements from Ling Han.

But that was all right. If they were able to learn one or two

moves, it would be enough for them to study for quite a while and drastically increase their own ability as alchemists.

...The million coins that they had spent was completely worth it.

Hong, hong, hong. Flames continuously flickered and appeared on Ling Han's hand. Sometimes the flames would be extraordinarily strong, while at other times, they would appear very weak. It was not that he had lost control over his flames. On the contrary, this was proof that the level of control he had over the temperature of the flames had reached the level of perfection.

‘That's right. When my fusion with the Strange Fire has advanced to another level, guiding it would have a kind of feeling like it was done completely freely and effortlessly,’ Ling Han thought. He actually still had the room to think of something else.

When others concocted alchemical pills, they would all be putting their whole focus on the concoction process. Being distracted for the slightest moment could mean the furnace exploding and having wasted all their previous efforts. But who asked Ling Han's alchemy standards to be too high? He could even concoct Heaven Grade alchemical pills, so this was naturally a piece of cake to him.

In fact, he was only thinking now. If he actually wanted to, he could completely give a lecture while he was still in the midst of the concoction process. However, if he actually did that, it was likely he would be scaring everyone here to death.

Because... this was a pill that was close to Earth Grade!

After half an hour, Ling Han's right hand suddenly trembled, and three different flames shot out. They were all of different colors, and it looked as if he was setting off fireworks.

Three Fire Guide!

This was of course not as simple as it looked. The specifics of it still lay in Ling Han's personal techniques. This was of course not

to be taught to outsiders.

Pill completed!

Ling Han did not immediately lift the lid of the furnace. The higher the grade of alchemical pills, the better their effects would be when they were allowed to stay in the still warm furnace after being completed until they had cooled naturally. Meanwhile, he began to meditate, recovering the Origin Power and mental energy that he had expended.

"How many completed pills could there be?"

"From the look of the ingredients, there should be eight completed pills in total."

"That's right. There should be eight completed pills, but taking into account the level of difficulty for concocting a pill so close to Earth Grade, managing to produce one completed pill would be amazing enough."

"One completed pill with quality above five Stars could be considered successful enough."

When they saw Ling Han had finally finished the concoction process, those alchemists who had withheld their words for such a long time finally began to talk. They were all discussing whether or not Ling Han had succeeded—if the furnace had exploded, that would mean that everything was wasted. But even if the furnace had not exploded, that did not automatically mean it was a success. Possibly, the completed pill may not even have the lowest quality of one Star.

However, because Ling Han was still meditating, none of them dared to rashly step forward and open up the furnace to find out. Some of the more impatient ones were already starting to fidget where they were standing.

After another ten plus minutes, Ling Han finally opened his eyes. He smiled softly at them, and said, "I know that you are all very

curious."

All of them smiled sheepishly. But this time also involved Ling Han getting the license of a Black Grade high level alchemist, so it was no wonder they were curious.

"Young Master Han, don't leave us hanging anymore. I'm about to die of anxiety," Fu Yuan Sheng said with a laugh. This was also what everyone else was thinking to say.

Ling Han pushed the alchemy furnace slightly forward, and said, "Then you may all look now!"

All of them hurriedly pressed forwards. However, there was really too many of them, and the furnace was really too small. Peng, peng, peng, peng. Suddenly, a lot of heads crashed into one another, causing those who had suffered from this accident to grab onto their heads and shout.

"Don't cram in. One after another!" because of his cultivation level of Spiritual Pedestal Tier, Fu Yuan Sheng managed to snatch the alchemy furnace, causing the others to silently curse inwardly. However, who asked Fu Yuan Sheng to be a Black Grade high level alchemist, a powerful warrior of Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and someone that had higher status and was more powerful than them?

Fu Yuan Sheng was a bit nervous, and even the hand he stretched out was trembling slightly. All of a sudden, he lifted the lid of the furnace.

"What?!" he immediately gasped out in shock. His eyes were wide and perfectly round, and an expression of utter disbelief appeared on his face.

"Master Fu, what is it?"

"Could it be that there isn't even one completed pill?"

All of them asked hurriedly. If it was not for the fact that they were a bit scared of Fu Yuan Sheng's status and power, they really

wanted to snatch the furnace from him.

Fu Yuan Sheng did not utter one word, and after a long time, he finally bore an expression of utter reverence as he said, "Young Master Han is almighty in alchemy. My admiration for you is incomparable." He lowered the furnace and showed it to the others.

And inside, there shockingly lay nine perfectly round alchemical pills!

Chapter 159: A Terrifying Pill Completion Rate

Nine pills!

How could this be?

One had to understand that even if Ling Han had reached the level of a hundred percent pill completion rate, without wasting any ingredients at all, the amount of ingredients supplied by Fu Yuan Sheng was only enough to produce eight Foundation Building Pills. Yet in front of their eyes, there now lay nine pills! How was this possible?

It must have failed!

"Look for yourselves!" Fu Yuan Sheng drew out a pill and passed it to the alchemist standing closest to him.

That person received it from him. He quickly examined it first, then smelt it before finally raising it high to examine it against the light. At last, a shocked expression appeared on his face, as he said, "Though I am of humble talent and shallow learning, I can confirm one hundred percent that this is definitely Foundation Building Pill, and, and..."

"And what?" the others asked hurriedly.

"...And... the quality of this pill seems to have exceeded ten Stars!" the man said finally after a moment of stuttering through his words.

"Pu." They almost passed out from shock. All of them were filled with complete, utter disbelief.

In theory, when a Black Grade high level alchemist concocted a Black Grade high level pill, it was already good enough to produce a pill with quality of about five Stars. For geniuses, they would be able to produce pills that could reach about eight Stars in quality,

while incomparable extraordinary geniuses would be able to concoct pills that could occasionally reach ten Stars.

But eleven Stars, twelve Stars... this was absolutely impossible. Only if it was a high-ranking alchemist concocting a low-grade alchemical pill would such an impossible thing happen.

So did that mean that Ling Han's alchemic abilities had already reached Earth Grade?

"Hiss!" the realization caused them to inhale air sharply.

"Let me see!" the others were all scrambling to take a look at the pills.

Fu Yuan Sheng quickly called a halt to their actions. Foundation Building Pill was a pill that was unbearably close to Earth Grade, so it was extremely valuable. He let the others all line up and then inspect the pills one by one.

"It really is Foundation Building Pill. The color and aroma is exactly as what is described in the alchemy books."

"Indeed, take a look at the exquisite shine to it. Its quality should definitely have exceeded ten Stars."

"Heavens, I feel like I'm about to lose my mind. Something like this could actually be real."

All of them were exclaiming in shock. A young man of merely seventeen years old actually managed to successfully concoct an alchemical pill close to the level of Earth Grade, and the quality of this pill has even exceeded ten Stars. No, no, no, they still had to take into account Ling Han's terrifying pill completion rate! One hundred percent!

"It's not a hundred percent. The ingredients should have only sufficed to produce eight pills, but why are there nine?" one of them recalled this puzzling point.

Fu Yuan Sheng inspected the remaining eight pills, and said

decisively, "I can guarantee with my reputation that these Foundation Building Pills are not only successful, but their quality is not the slightest bit beneath that one!"

Using his reputation and honor as a Black Grade high level alchemist to guarantee... then, that meant that there was definitely no problem with the other eight pills.

"Genius, Young Master Han is definitely a genius of alchemy!"

"I get it. Young Master Han managed to obtain purer essences of the ingredients with better effects from the purification process earlier on. That's why he could produce nine Foundation Building Pills!"

"That's right. The so-called limitation of eight pills is based on the fact that normal methods of purification are used, but with Young Master Han's unique purification technique, it is indeed possible to produce an additional pill."

"Heavens!"

They all grabbed onto their heads and exclaimed in shock. They all looked at Ling Han with heated gazes, as if they were looking at a God of Alchemy.

In fact, although their guess was not accurate, it was not far from the truth.

Ling Han stood up and said, "All right, all right. I've collected the money and you've watched my performance, so I should take my leave now." He walked over and retrieved the pills, placing them in a jade bottle. Then he turned and said to Fu Yuan Sheng, "When the license approval is done, send me the badge."

Fu Yuan Sheng quickly agreed very respectfully, as if he was an alchemist's apprentice who had just started learning from his master.

Ling Han left with Hu Niu in his arms. The little girl had already fallen asleep in Liu Yu Tong's arms after getting bored. However,

when they arrived at the restaurant and she smelt the enticing aroma of food, the little girl's nose twitched and she immediately awoke.

"Meat! Meat!" she called out in delight.

After satisfying Hu Niu's gluttonous appetite, the three of them went to the Spirit Treasures Pavilion. Ling Han was not planning to keep these nine Foundation Building Pills for himself, and so was naturally going to sell them off. And for this kind of rare alchemical pill, they belonged to the category of having no lack of buyers with no one willing to sell, so how could he be selling it cheaply for a named price? He was of course going to auction them off to the highest bidder.

In the Imperial City, there was no auction house better than the Spirit Treasures Pavilion. However, if he decided to auction them off, there would need to be a period of advertising and publicity, so he would not be able to immediately earn back what he had spent. But it was all right. Ling Han had just earned over ten million moments ago and this was more than enough to support those clothing stores of his that were making losses for quite some time.

"What do the two honorable customers want to to buy?" a worker immediately stepped forward to greet them. Hu Niu was naturally overlooked by him.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "I have some alchemical pills to auction off, so please let your Appraiser come to assess my alchemical pills."

"Alchemical pills? Hehe!" there incidentally stood a couple beside them. The man looked to be in his forties and with a disdainful expression, he said, "What kind of alchemical pills could a young man bring? Don't shame yourself in this kind of place!"

He swept an eye over Liu Yu Tong, and a stunned expression appeared on his features.

"This is Fan Dong Ping, Grandmaster Fan, a Yellow Grade middle level alchemist!" the woman beside him immediately introduced. She was quite good-looking, but her makeup was a bit overdone.

The worker was a bit embarrassed. It was the freedom of the customers to decide what they wanted to auction, as long as the item they wanted to auction was found to be up to the standard of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion after appraisal. The Spirit Treasures Pavilion had a fixed commission rate anyways.

However, a Yellow Grade middle level alchemist was not someone he could offend either. Thus, he first raised his clasped hands in Fan Dong Ping's direction, and said, "I shall go and ask Appraiser Ma to come over." Then he quickly escaped.

Fan Dong Ping looked very arrogant, and from the corner of his eye, he glanced at Liu Yu Tong, hoping to see an expression of astonishment appear on her face. However, he was disappointed. This beauty that seemed as cold as ice did not have any change in her expression.

The gaudy woman stared at Liu Yu Tong in jealousy. This woman was more beautiful than her, more graceful, and most importantly, was younger than her.

After a while, the worker led a middle-aged man who looked to be in his forties over. This man was only in the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier, but a faint air of scrolls and books exuded from him, giving a comfortable feeling to others.

"This is Ma Tian Sheng, Appraiser Ma," the worker introduced.

Ling Han did not mind either way, handed the pill bottle to Ma Tian Sheng, and said, "Then I'll have to trouble Appraiser Ma to take a look for me!"

"I'll do it!" Fan Dong Ping suddenly stretched out a hand and snatched the pill bottle away. Then, he turned and said to Ma Tian Sheng with a laugh, "I am a Yellow Grade middle level alchemist,

and if we're talking about appraisal of alchemical pill, I should not be beneath Brother Ma, right?"

A flicker of displeasure flashed over Ma Tian Sheng's face, but he did not express this displeasure in view of Fan Dong Ping's status as an alchemist. Instead, he nodded with a darkened expression, and said, "Please."

Fan Dong Ping looked immensely pleased with himself. He naturally was trying to deliberately show off and attract Liu Yu Tong's attention. Yet he did not consider the fact that he had reached middle age, and was still trying to attract a girl so much younger than himself.

He removed the cork of the pill bottle. With a single sniff, his expression changed greatly. He took a look inside, then quickly recorked the bottle and stuffed it inside his pocket directly. He then turned to Ling Han and said, "Brat, this bottle of Spirit Gathering Pills is not worth much. Here, this is a monetary note worth ten thousand silver coins, and I'll buy it from you out of the kindness of my heart."

Ling Han was shocked. He knew that Fan Dong Ping was shameless, but the extent of his shamelessness was something he had never imagined. What was the difference between what he was doing and robbing?

Ma Tian Sheng did not know what alchemical pills were contained inside the pill bottle, but looking at the anxious actions of Fan Dong Ping, he could guess that they were not ordinary pills. Instantly, an angered expression appeared on his face, and he said, "This is something that the customer has passed to our Spirit Treasures Pavilion to auction, so I should be the one doing the appraisal!"

"Ai, it's difficult to be kind. Take it then!" Fan Dong Ping drew out a pill bottle from his pocket and tossed it over to Ma Tian Sheng.

Ling Han swept an eye over it, and a cold smile appeared on his face, because the pill bottle had been swapped.

How outrageously bold!

Chapter 160: Swapped

Ma Tian Sheng took the pill bottle from Fan Dong Ping. He had not observed closely the original pill bottle that Ling Han had brought, so he naturally had no idea that Fan Dong Ping had done a swap. He uncorked the bottle, took a look inside and could not hold back on expressing his displeasure.

These were indeed Spirit Gathering Pills, and the quality was nothing too impressive either. They looked to be only about five to six Stars and completely not valuable enough to be auctioned by the Spirit Treasures Pavilion.

"Young man, these are just ordinary Spirit Gathering Pills, and they are not valuable enough to be auctioned." Ma Tian SHeng threw the pill bottle back to Fan Dong Ping, anger flickering across his face. He actually lost his composure because of a bottle of Spirit Gathering Pills. This was extremely displeasing to him.

Liu Yu Tong already understood what was going on, and the gaze she directed at Fan Dong Ping had a sliver of killing intent.

Meanwhile, Fan Dong Ping was extremely pleased with himself. He did not know that the pill bottle he had swapped contained Foundation Building Pills, but was able to ascertain that they were at least Black Grade alchemical pills. To be able to obtain such a valuable item for merely ten thousand silver coins was indeed an extremely, overwhelmingly profitable business venture.

...If he had known that they were Foundation Building Pills, he most likely would not have dared to try such a scheme, because it would involve a lot of trouble that he would not be able to cope with.

Moreover, the person he had cheated was just a young man that was about sixteen to seventeen years old. So what if he found out that the pill bottle was swapped? What could he do against a Yellow Grade middle level alchemist like him?

"Let's go!" he said to the gaudy woman next to him. After all, he had something on his conscience, so the best option for him now was naturally to leave this place as soon as possible.

Ling Han could not help but smile, and said, "You are indeed quite bold to actually dare to scam me!"

"I don't know what you're talking about. I'm leaving!" Fan Dong Ping's heart beat wildly in his chest. It was an absolute windfall for him to have managed to get a bottle of Black Grade alchemical pills out of a scam.

"You can't leave anymore!" Ling Han said calmly.

"Heng, I am a Yellow Grade middle level alchemist. Do you intend to stop me from leaving?" Fan Dong Ping asked coldly, preparing to walk forwards.

Pa!

Ling Han stretched out a hand and grabbed onto Fan Dong Ping's wrist. He said with a smile, "I'm not just going to stop you from leaving, I'm also going to thrash you!"

"You dare!" Fan Dong Ping shouted loudly, "Let go!"

"Let go your sister!"

Ling Han's fist flashed out and with a pa, hit Fan Dong Ping's left eye, instantly causing the guy to cry out in pain and use a hand to cover his eye. When he lowered his hand, his eye had become black and blue.

"Ba-bastard!" Fan Dong Ping roared fiercely, "The people of Spirit Treasures Pavilion, are you not going to interfere and allow someone to commit crime in your territory? Are you still planning to continue your business?"

A troubled expression appeared on Ma Tian Sheng's face at his words. Indeed, it was forbidden to make trouble at Spirit Treasures Pavilion, but he was not happy with Fan Dong Ping's character.

That was why he had not stepped out to stop Ling Han at the first moment. But as Fan Dong Ping had pointed out the inaction of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion so directly, it was not proper for him to pretend that he had not heard Fan Dong Ping either.

"Young man, stop immediately!" he shouted at Ling Han.

Peng, peng, peng, peng. Ling Han looked like he had not heard anything at all. He simply concentrated on giving Fan Dong Ping a harsh beating. Actually daring to try to cheat him... how outrageously brave of him.

Fury appeared on Ma Tian Sheng's face. This young man actually ignored his words, and even dared to use violence in Spirit Treasures Pavilion. He was really too brave. He snorted and called out, "Guards, apprehend this brat!"

Liu Yu Tong immediately took a step forward. Hu Niu's ferocious nature also surfaced as she bared her teeth at Ma Tian Sheng.

Ling Han retrieved a jade bottle from Fan Dong Ping's clothes. He was of course very familiar with his own possession. He did not even take another look, and simply threw it over to Ma Tian Sheng as he said, "This is what I wanted to auction!"

Ma Tian Sheng smiled coldly, and said, "You actually dared to make a move at Spirit Treasures Pavilion, and still want to pretend nothing had happened?"

"You're wrong. I only caught a thief myself, retrieved my stolen possession, and gave the thief a well-deserved thrashing," Ling Han said calmly and directed a dignified stare at Ma Tian Sheng.

Ma Tian Sheng's heart trembled. The eyes of this young man seemed to be able to see into the inner depths of his soul, causing his whole body to tremble. Involuntarily, he uncorked the jade bottle. It was only a single instant, and an expression of utter shock appeared on his face.

As an appraiser, he was naturally not familiar with the ways of

alchemy. However, he was very familiar with the various types of alchemical pills, because this was part of his job.

"Foundation, Foundation Building Pill!" Ma Tian Sheng immediately gasped out in shock, indescribable astonishment on his face.

In that one moment, he had already believed that Ling Han was telling the truth and that Fan Dong Ping had definitely played a trick on them both and swapped the pill bottles. Otherwise, how could a mere Yellow Grade middle level alchemist like Fan Dong Ping be able to possess Foundation Building Pills?

"So you do have good judgement." Ling Han nodded. Foundation Building Pills definitely had never appeared in Rain Country but this man could recognize that they were Foundation Building Pills with a single look, so it seemed like he did have some knowledge and experience.

Ma Tian Sheng could not bother with Ling Han at that moment. He drew out a Foundation Building Pill and scrutinized it to ascertain the quality of it.

Ling Han smiled calmly. Since that was the case, then he'd deal with his own issue as well. His foot pressed down on Fan Dong Ping's face and he smiled as he said, "You are very brave to actually dare to scam even my things!"

"Brat, you're dead!" Fan Dong Ping said grimly, "I am an alchemist, and you actually dare to injure me. That is a crime punished by death! Moreover, you even stole my alchemical pills. This will only make your crime worse!"

"You still dare not to repent for your crimes!" Ling Han shook his head, and asked Liu Yu Tong, "According to the laws of Rain Country, how much money should a person like him steal to be able to be sentenced to death?"

A crime of theft could either be heavy or light. It depended on the

amount stolen, as well as the identity of the victim. If ten silver coins was stolen from a poor commoner, that would be considered a heavy crime. But for a rich man, a theft of ten silver coins would only cause him to be looked down by others for a while.

If a Yellow Grade middle level alchemist like Fan Dong Ping were to be sentenced to death for theft, the amount stolen would have to be exorbitantly colossal.

Liu Yu Tong thought for a moment, then said, "At least ten million."

Ling Han turned and asked Ma Tian Sheng, "Are these Foundation Building Pills worth ten million?"

Ma Tian Sheng immediately glared at Ling Han furiously. What kind of joke was he talking about? These were Foundation Building Pills they were talking about, and the lowest price for one was ten million and above. Do you have any common sense at all? But when he recalled that these Foundation Building Pills were Ling Han's own, he instantly softened, and said, "There are in total nine Foundation Building Pills here, and if they were to be auctioned off, the lowest price they could be sold at would be a hundred million silver coins!

A hundred million!

Fan Dong Ping instantly felt like he was going to pass out as an incomparably cold shiver travelled all over his body. How could Ling Han be any ordinary person if he were able to take out an auction item that was worth a hundred million? But, when he thought about the reality that he would really be arrested for theft, it was not only something shameful for him—the colossal amount of a hundred million was more than enough to sentence him to death.

Beside him, the gaudily dressed woman had already begun to shiver and silently moved away from him, obviously trying to draw a clear dividing line between herself and Fan Dong Ping.

"No, these alchemical pills are mine! Mine!" the only thing Fan Dong Ping could do now was to insist stubbornly that he was telling the truth. If not, he would really be finished.

"Are you an idiot?" Ling Han gave him a kick, "How could a stupid pig like you be able to concoct alchemical pills that are close to Earth Grade? You yourself are an idiot, so you think others are idiots too?"

Fan Dong Ping's face became ashen. He knew that he had poked a hornet's nest now... Alchemical pills close to Earth Grade... perhaps not even the two big bosses of alchemy of Rain Country would be able to concoct such high-grade pills, this young man must definitely have a terrifying background!

"Master Ma!" three guards approached quickly and looked at Ma Tian Sheng in question. They had come because they saw that there was a big commotion going on here.

"Apprehend this man!" Ma Tian Sheng commanded coldly, "Then make a report to the imperial guards! Tell them we have encountered a crime of theft here!"

"Yes, Master Ma!" Fan Dong Ping, who was currently looking like a dead dog, was immediately dragged out by the three guards.

Chapter 161: An Evil Soul

"How may I address you, Mister?" Ma Tian Sheng was currently all smiles. The previous horrible impression that Ling Han had given him was completely swept aside, of course. This was a grand customer that was able to produce alchemical pills close to Earth Grade. What other person could do such a thing in the whole of Rain Country?

Absolutely none!

"Ling Han. You may address me as Young Master Han," Ling Han replied.

Ma Tian Sheng involuntarily wiped off sweat from his forehead. He did not want to address a young man as "Young Master" even one bit, but Ling Han was indeed a very important customer. If he offended Ling Han and Ling Han decided not to commission the Spirit Treasures Pavilion to auction off the alchemical pills on his behalf... then he'd really be in deep, deep trouble.

"Young Master Han!" he could only do as Ling Han had said and address him as young master. Then, he said, "Please follow me. I shall help Young Master Han take care of the procedures for registration."

"All right," Ling Han agreed with a nod.

The news that nine alchemical pills close to Earth Grade had appeared at Spirit Treasures Pavilion very quickly reached the ears of the higher-ups. Very soon, an old man dressed in embroidered robes appeared and received Ling Han respectfully. Then, he introduced himself, "I am the Third Elder of this Pavilion. My surname is Jia, and my name is Jia Ba Yun."

"Senior Jia," Ling Han greeted him, raising his clasped hands in respect. This old man was a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite, and more than deserved his respectful greeting.

"Young Friend, are you intending to auction these Foundation Building Pills here, or directly sell them off to our Pavilion?" Jia Ba Yun asked.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and answered, "Auction." Such alchemical pills were used to assist one to break through to the next level, so it was of course best to auction them off in order to maximize their price.

Jia Ba Yun looked a little disappointed at this. If the Foundation Building Pills were directly sold to the Spirit Treasures Pavilion, they'd be able to auction a single pill every few years. Firstly, this would help to increase the reputation of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion, and secondly, rare items were always the most expensive. This would allow the Spirit Treasures Pavilion to obtain the highest amount of profit from these Foundation Building Pill.

Unfortunately, this brat was not that foolish.

However, nine Foundation Pills would definitely be auctioned off for an astronomical figure. The Spirit Treasures Pavilion would be earning more than enough from the commission alone.

"Young Friend, if a customer commissions the Spirit Treasures Pavilion to auction items, we usually charge a commission fee of fifteen percent. However, because the Foundation Building Pills are much too valuable, I can make the decision to lower the commission fee to fourteen percent. How does that sound?" Jia Ba Yun asked, smiling.

How ruthless, they actually had such a high commission rate.

Liu Yu Tong was pouting at one side. The value of nine Foundation Building Pills was definitely above a hundred million, and this commission fee of fourteen percent would be over a million silver coins, far above the monthly net profit of the Liu Clan. However, Jia Ba Yun was already generous enough to actually cut a hundred thousand out of the commission of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion.

Of course, this was also because the value of the Foundation Building Pill was really too high.

"All right," Ling Han nodded. Money was not something that he attached a lot of importance to, anyways.

Jia Ba Yun smiled, and continued, "If you want these Foundation Building Pills to be sold for a good price, the best option would be to auction them over a few auctions. If Young Friend is not in a hurry to use money, why not use this small scheme?"

The more the Foundation Building Pills could be sold for, the higher the earnings of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion would be. Thus, Jia Ba Yun would naturally want to use a scheme that could earn the most profit for the Spirit Treasures Pavilion.

Ling Han shook his head, and replied, "I want them all to be auctioned off in a single auction."

Jia Ba Yun was stunned for a moment, then sighed. The pills belonged to Ling Han after all, so even if he was a powerful warrior of Spiritual Pedestal Tier, he could only make suggestions and offer advice.

To Ling Han, the Foundation Building Pill was something that he could easily concoct, so he would naturally not care if it would be auctioned off for a good price or a better price. In the end, it would definitely be an astronomical price anyways. Worst-case scenario, he'd concoct a few other alchemical pills close to Earth Grade a few days later, and would still be able to earn a lot of money anyways.

"All right. This is your letter of proof. When the pills are sold, Young Friend can bring this along with you to withdraw your funds. You may also endorse someone else to do it for you. However, please take note—if the letter of proof is lost, please make sure to immediately report the loss here. Otherwise, if someone else withdrew the money earned without your approval, there is nothing even I can do," Jia Ba Yun warned.

This token was split into half, and the Spirit Treasures Pavilion and Ling Han each held one half. The two halves could be joined together seamlessly. Both Jia Ba Yun and Ling Han left a handprint on their own half. This would help prevent any possibility of anyone using false identities.

"Young Friend, if you have other such pills in the future, why not come auction them off at our Spirit Treasures Pavilion again? As for the commission fee... it can still be discussed further," Jia Ba Yun said.

"All right!" Ling Han agreed decisively.

Ling Han and his companions left the Spirit Treasures Pavilion right after. As for Fan Dong Ping, he naturally would not get a good end. Ling Han did not need to worry himself over it. Even if Fan Dong Ping was a Yellow Grade middle level alchemist, his crime involved an exorbitantly high sum of over a hundred million. It would be very difficult for him to escape the death sentence.

Who asked him to be so greedy?

It was already quite late, so Ling Han headed to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, bringing Liu Yu Tong and Hu Niu with him.

The three of them slowly strolled through the streets. Hu Niu ran all over the place. Whether it was lollipops or cotton candy or anything else, as long as it was something new, she wanted to give it a try.

Thus, by the time they arrived at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, the sky was already completely dark.

"Mr Ling, this way please." Yun Shuang Shuang had already been waiting inside, and when she saw Ling Han's figure, she immediately stepped out to receive him.

They arrived at a side courtyard. When Yun Shuang Shuang pushed open the door and entered, they saw Lady Yan helping out a youth and coming out to receive them. Lady Yan said, "We are

honored by your presence, Mr Ling. Please forgive me for not going out to meet you."

Ling Han looked at the two, and said, "That's all right. It is not convenient for Lady Yan as well, so I understand your difficulty. This should be your son, am I right? He has been sleeping for quite a number of years, so his body should still be very weak."

"Thank you for your understanding, Mr Ling," Lady Yan said with a smile. She turned and said to the youth by her side, "Tian'er, this is your life-saving benefactor. Aren't you going to greet your Big Brother Ling?"

"Big Brother Ling!" the youth immediately called. His face was extremely pale, and he spoke in a weak voice.

"Mr Ling, this is my son. His name is Yan Tian Zhao," Lady Yan introduced to Ling Han. Then she took a look at Liu Yu Tong, and could not help but smile, "Mr Ling is indeed very fortunate to actually be able to obtain the favor of the princess of the Liu Clan."

Instantly, Liu Yu Tong's face reddened, yet her positive impression of Lady Yan improved even further. She liked listening to such words.

"Come, come, come. Come and sit down first." Lady Yan guided the others into the side courtyard. There was already a delicious feast laid out, and around them, there were eight very beautiful female attendants holding onto lanterns. As the light from these lanterns flickered gently, it was a very uniquely enchanting scene.

They all sat down in their respective seats, according to their status as host and guests. Lady Yan naturally took the main seat, and on her left sat her son. Yun Shuang Shuang was seated next to him. Meanwhile, Ling Han was seated on Lady Yan's right, with Hu Niu beside him, and lastly, Liu Yu Tong.

"Big Sister Liu, you are really pretty," Yan Tian Zhao praised. A faint blush rose up on his pale face, as if he was being shy.

If it had been a young man saying such words, Liu Yu Tong would not be very happy. However, firstly, Yan Tian Zhao was only a teen around 15-16 years old, and secondly, she was elated to be praised like this in front of Ling Han. Thus, her good impression of this youth also improved greatly.

Of course, that was the affection that an elder sister had for a younger brother.

Ling Han only smiled at this. His eyes swept over Yan Tian Zhao, and a cold feeling rose up in his heart.

This was not fear, but... loathing, an extreme kind of loathing. It was as if there was an incomparably evil soul hiding within the body of this youth, causing a deep loathing to inexplicably rise up in his heart. He turned to look at Hu Niu and saw that when the little girl's eyes swept over Yan Tian Zhao, her little face involuntarily stiffened, and she bared her teeth.

Obviously, Hu Niu had also sensed the evil nature in him.

Ling Han could not help but be immersed in deep thought. The Permanent Pill would be able to awaken a person who had been trapped in deep slumber. The important thing now was, why had Yan Tian Zhao fallen asleep in the first place? From the clues that Lady Yan and Yun Shuang Shuang had revealed, Yan Tian Zhao should have been sleeping for about ten years.

At that time, had he started sleeping because of some kind of illness? Or had he committed some great crime, which caused an unknown elite martial artist to entrap his spirit and force him to sleep for such a very long time?

That was the question.

Chapter 162: Yan Tian Zhao

Yan Tian Zhao kept up a display of bashfulness and would frequently blush throughout their meal. When Lady Yan saw this, she felt both heartache and fondness. This also increased the positive feelings that Liu Yu Tong and Yun Shuang Shuang felt for him, who both doted on him like he was their little brother.

But precisely because of his display, the coldness in Ling Han's heart grew even further.

But, with the indulgent love that Lady Yan was showing for him, if Ling Han actually declared something like eliminating him at this moment, then she would definitely become hostile on the spot and suppress him like some kind of terrible monster—Ling Han would never underestimate the insane and extreme lengths that a mother would go to for her child.

Moreover, this was only an intuitive feeling of his.

...Unless he had reached a point where he was invincible. Then, as long as he thought so, he would be able to do as he wished, with no need to care for what others would think of his actions.

The unfortunate thing was, he was only in the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier now.

"Big Brother Ling, why do you look a bit moody?" Yan Tian Zhao suddenly asked Ling Han, a hint of a smile flickering at the corners of his lips, his gaze deep.

A smile appeared on Ling Han's face as he asked, "What do I have to be moody about?"

"Mr Ling has Miss Liu to accompany him by his side. How could he possibly be unhappy?" Lady Yan pursed her lips in a tender laugh. She was the lady boss of an entertainment business, so she was naturally rather outspoken in her speech.

Liu Yu Tong immediately reddened at her words, but a hint of

delight flickered in her eyes. She turned to glance at Ling Han but when she saw that he looked extremely composed, she could not help but feel a little disappointed.

"I have not yet congratulated Big Brother Ling. When will you be getting married with Big Sister Yu Tong?" Yan Tian Zhao asked in a very innocent-looking manner.

This brat was indeed strange!

Or so Ling Han thought secretly. When Yan Tian Zhao fell asleep, he should have only been about 5-6 years old. Then, now that he was awake, he should only have the limited intelligence of a young child of 5-6 years old, and would need to recover for some time before his intelligence would catch up with others within the same age range as he.

But, just looking at the way he was speaking now, who would believe that this youth had been asleep for over ten years?

However, Lady Yan, Liu Yu Tong, and Yun Shuang Shuang all did not notice this discrepancy—even if they had noticed, they'd most likely think that this brat was a genius who could immediately adapt and get used to having a normal life.

Then he'd just have to see exactly how strange this brat was.

Ling Han smiled. This youth did not even have a sliver of cultivation on him, so why was there need for him to be afraid? He had already mentioned it before. He only sensed a very discomfoting feeling from this Yan Tian Zhao, as if there was an incomparably evil soul hidden within the youth's body that incited disgust from him.

"Lady Yan, it's best to serve more food. This little girl is a true glutton," Ling Han said with a laugh, pointing at Hu Niu who had already begun scarfing down the food.

Lady Yan and Yun Shuang Shuang were both astonished. How could such a tiny little child have such a terrifyingly huge appetite?

"It's a good thing to be able to eat," Lady Yan said with a smile.

"But, she can eat too well. I'm about to be driven into poverty by her humongous appetite," Ling Han sighed.

Meanwhile, Liu Yu Tong rolled her eyes at his words. This guy earned over a hundred million in a few moments; no matter how big a glutton Hu Niu was, she would not be able to catch up to the rate he was earning money at. And he still dared to moan about being poor! What an actor!

With Lady Yan's command, a large amount of food was served one after another. Hu Niu did not refuse any dish, and eventually decided not to use chopsticks anymore but rather her bare hands to grab the food. She moved at such a quick speed that Lady Yan and the others all looked shocked at the speed at which she could eat.

They had seen people who could eat a lot, but those who could eat so much ... they had definitely never seen before.

Yan Tian Zhao stared at Hu Niu for a moment longer, and a smile involuntarily appeared on his lips—he was obviously very intrigued by her. However, Hu Niu was a very sensitive little girl, and she immediately raised her head to glare at him. Her gaze was filled with ferocity and killing intent, causing his already pale face to pale a few shades further.

Aside from Ling Han, no one else noticed this little episode.

Because, just like no one would think that Yan Tian Zhao possessed an evil soul, naturally no one would think that such a tiny, little girl like Hu Niu would have any ability to harm others. They would only think that she was a big eater.

Yan Tian Zhao very quickly discovered Ling Han's gaze on him, and offered up a friendly smile. Meanwhile, Ling Han gave him a very meaningful look, causing the smile on Yan Tian Zhao's face to slowly fade and hidden depths to appear in his eyes. This did not

look anything like a youth of merely 15-16 years old, what more one that had been in a coma for over ten years and had just been awake for a few days.

"Please accept this Cherishing Flower Command, Mr Ling." Lady Yan gifted him with an intricately-carved jade plaque that was carved into the shape of a flower. "The holder of this plaque would not only be able to enjoy a twenty percent discount in Cherishing Flower Pavilion, but can also come without any kind of reservations. There are a few side courtyards that have been set aside specifically for extremely honored customers like Mr Ling."

Ling Han received the plaque, smiled and said, "Thank you, Lady Yan."

Overall, both hosts and guests quite enjoyed this feast. Of course, the happiest person was definitely Hu Niu. She had eaten so much that her little tummy was slightly rounded. But, when one considered the fact that she had eaten so much food, and yet her tummy was only slightly rounded from the colossal amount she had consumed, it was a practically inconceivable concept.

Ling Han now was not so curious about where the food she had consumed had gone. In comparison, the Spirit Base in the little girl's body was something even more shocking.

Lady Yan sent out a carriage to deliver the three of them back to the Academy. Yun Shuang Shuang did not accompany them this time; only Lady Yan and Yan Tian Zhao escorted them to the door and saw them off.

On the carriage, Hu Niu, being a very good eater and a very good sleeper, had already found a comfortable spot in Ling Han's arms and gone to sleep peacefully. In a few moments, a long snoring sound could be heard from her.

"Lady Yan is really too pitiful. She had to support the business of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion all by herself and still take care of her comatose child. If I were her, I would most probably have

broken down long ago," Liu Yu Tong said ruefully.

Ling Han thought for a moment, then asked, "Have you ever thought about why Yan Tian Zhao had fallen into a coma in the first place?"

"It should have been some kind of inborn illness, right? Something like my Three Yin Vanishing Veins," Liu Yu Tong said. And it was exactly this fact that caused her to empathize with Yan Tian Zhao and dote on him like a little brother.

"Then, when he fell into a coma, he should have only been about 5-6 years old. He has just barely woken up and yet can completely behave like a normal person. Isn't that strange?" Ling Han asked.

"Maybe he's a natural-born genius?" Liu Yu Tong paused, then said, "Yi, you seem to be a bit unfond of Tian Zhao?"

"I don't like this person." Ling Han did not hide anything.

"Niu doesn't like too!" Hu Niu suddenly awoke, and sat upright on Ling Han's lap, looking extremely serious.

"Why?" Liu Yu Tong felt a bit curious.

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "I can't describe why. I keep feeling that this brat is extremely evil, making me have the urge to thrash him. Therefore, it's best if this brat does not appear before me again, or I will definitely have fun thrashing him."

How willful.

"Thrash him! Hit him!" Hu Niu waved her little hands too.

"You guys!" Liu Yu Tong was completely speechless. 'Why would Ling Han dislike Yan Tian Zhao? Ah, could it be because I doted on him too much, so this guy is jealous?' When she thought of this, Liu Yu Tong's heart could not help beating wildly.

"Since you don't like it, then I won't see him again," she said, tugging at her sleeve. A beautiful blush rose up on her face, giving her a very tempting look.

Was this girl misunderstanding something?

But never mind; as long as she did not come into contact with Yan Tian Zhao again, that would be fine. Though this brat did not have a single bit of power in him, Ling Han still felt he was really too strange. And if his deductions were not wrong and Yan Tian Zhao had fallen into a coma because of something someone else did, then perhaps it was because someone had discovered his evil nature, yet could not bear to kill a young child of 5-6 years old, and so merely caused him to fall into a coma.

Chapter 163: Jin Wuji's Request

After returning to the Hu Yang Academy, Ling Han and Liu Yu Tong both went their own way. He had just stepped into his own courtyard when he immediately heard Liu Ru Er's nagging voice.

"As a landlord, you are really a failure. You did not even prepare food for us!" she seethed.

Ling Han could not help a strange expression appearing on his face as he asked, "Don't tell me you two don't know how to cook?"

Instantly, Liu Ru Er's almond-shaped eyes widened, and she blurted out, "How did you know?"

"I can easily tell from looks of your incompetence," Ling Han sighed. This pair of assassin sisters were really failures. They failed at assassination and did not even know how to cook. They really were the rookies of all rookies.

"Heng, who are you calling incompetent!?" Liu Ru Er asked with a defiant expression. "When I have recovered all my abilities, I will definitely give you a good thrashing!"

Ling Han could not help but laugh, and said, "Then why should I still continue to care for two enemies like you two! Ai, I've been short of money recently, and if I take advantage of the chance to provide information on two criminals, I should be able to get quite a considerable sum of money."

Liu Ru Er instantly paled and gasped in fear. "You're just scaring me!"

"Am I?" Ling Han crossed one leg over the other, an unfathomable expression on his face.

Liu Ru Er wavered. She had always been living under the protection of her elder sister and never needed to worry about the bad intentions of others. Now that she was facing Ling Han who was in his second lifetime on her own, she was naturally easily

played by him.

"Come, sing a little song for me. If you sing well enough, then I'll let you off," Ling Han said, smiling.

Liu Ru Er finally understood that Ling Han was just trying to scare her and could not help patting her breasts as she said, "You're so mean!" But, she immediately raised her head and added, "All right, then I'll sing a song. But, don't think that I'm afraid of you. It's just been too long since I last sang, and I feel an itch in my throat!"

She opened her mouth and began singing. The song she sang was mellow, and would easily touch the hearts of listeners.

Ling Han nodded internally. This little girl was a bit of a ditz, but she was indeed quite a talented singer. Looks like she went into the wrong business.

"Noisy! Noisy!" Hu Niu was awakened by the song and glared in displeasure at Liu Ru Er, her ferocious nature fully out in the open.

Liu Ru Er was not very happy with her critique and said, "I have such a beautiful voice, and you actually say it's noisy! There is indeed no hint of elegance in you!"

"Heng!" Hu Niu glared at her in defiance.

The two girls glared furiously at one another, neither willing to back down. From the looks of it, they were prepared to glare at each other until the end of time.

Ling Han yawned, stood up and walked to his bedroom, intending to go to bed.

Xiu , Hu Niu immediately took a great leap and clung onto Ling Han. Then, she turned and made a silly face at Liu Ru Er.

Such a failure. She couldn't even handle a little kid.

Liu Ru Er clutched her hair in frustration. As an assassin, she couldn't even win in a staring competition with a little girl. Was

she really suited to become an assassin?

When he awoke, there was a shade of pale white in the eastern sky. Ling Han sat up in a cross-legged position and began to cultivate.

He was deliberately waking up earlier now to cultivate at a different time from Hu Niu. This way, he would not need to run all over the place to cultivate elsewhere.

‘Not bad. I’ll be able to break through to the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier in three days.’ Ling Han smiled. What he wanted the most now was to break through to Gushing Spring Tier and peer into the secrets of the Black Tower.

By now, the sun had already risen and Ling Han woke Hu Niu up. Though the little girl looked very reluctant, she still adhered to Ling Han's request and began to cultivate. Hu Niu had such a terrifying potential—who knows, her future achievements may not be one bit beneath his.

Ling Han prepared breakfast. He was extremely depressed at this. It was fine when he had Hu Niu staying with him, but now that there were two bigger girls living with him, it was still up to him to cook. This was really unfair.

Tong, tong, tong. A knock sounded on the main door.

Who could it be?

Ling Han walked over, opened the door and discovered that his visitor was Jin Wuji.

‘Yi, why did this guy come over?’

"Brother Jin, why are you here so early?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

Jin Wuji smiled bitterly, and said, "Brother Ling, I would like to ask for your help."

"With what?" Ling Han asked, in no rush to agree to anything yet.

Jin Wuji hesitated for a moment, then asked, "Is Brother Ling able to make a reservation at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion?"

‘Yi?’

Ling Han could not help but look at Jin Wuji strangely. Had this guy struck some deal with Lady Yan? Ling Han had just received the Cherishing Flower Command yesterday and there was already someone here today to ask for his help to make a reservation at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion.

"Brother Ling, I don't know what else to do! You know a lot of people, and I'm desperate. That's why I am here to shamelessly ask for your help," Jin Wuji sighed.

Ling Han smiled, and asked, "What's going on? Why would you need a table at Cherishing Flower Pavilion?"

"If I tell you, promise me you won't laugh at me!" Jin Wuji actually blushed.

Ling Han put on a serious face, and said, "I promise I won't laugh."

Jin Wuji gathered his thoughts for a moment, then began to speak. Apparently, he met a daughter of a minor clan from the Imperial City a year ago. Her name was Jiang Fei Yan, and the two of them had fallen in love with each other. Their relationship had even reached the point that they were beginning to discuss marriage.

However, though the Jin Clan was a Great Clan in Da Yuan City, it was only considered a minor clan in the Imperial City. Moreover, those who were living in an area under the direct jurisdiction of the Emperor all had an inborn arrogance and felt a sense of superiority towards others. The Jiang Clan was thus not very satisfied with a future son-in-law like Jin Wuji and kept trying to

separate the couple.

Thus, Jin Wuji kept trying to rack his brains, hoping to find some way to change the opinion the Jiang Clan had of him.

The requirements to enter the Cherishing Flower Pavilion were very high and anyone who wanted to reserve a table at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion had to at least be from a middle-class clan. Thus, displaying his ability through treating the important members of the Jiang Clan to a meal at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion was undoubtedly a very good idea.

But the problem now was that even if he had broken through to Gushing Spring Tier, the Cherishing Flower Pavilion would still ignore his request, what more now that he was still only in Element Gathering Tier.

Recently, the Jiang Clan appeared to plan on marrying Jiang Fei Yan off to the Seventh Young Master of a middle-class clan. Thus, Jin Wuji really had no idea what else he could do and so came to try his luck with Ling Han.

After all, Ling Han had just arrived at the Imperial City for a few days and had already gotten to know a disciple of Wu Song Ling, and could even possibly be an honoured guest of Grandmaster Wu. Therefore, even if Ling Han had no way to make a reservation at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion by himself, he could still go through Wu Song Lin to make the reservation.

When he heard the full story, Ling Han could not help but laugh loudly as he said, "I had never imagined that Brother Jin would actually be a romantic."

"Brother Ling, you promised you wouldn't laugh." Meanwhile, Jin Wuji was continuously sighing, distress all over his face.

Ling Han still continued to laugh. He patted Jin Wuji on his shoulder and said, "Brother Jin, I am not able to reserve a table at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, but..."

When Jin Wuji heard his words, he looked disappointed at first. But then, he suddenly heard that meaningful pause, so his heart involuntarily started to beat wildly in excitement. "Does Brother Ling have some other way?"

"I can't reserve a regular table, but would a side courtyard be alright?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

"Pu!"

Jin Wuji instantly choked.

If one wanted to reserve a table at Cherishing Flower Pavilion, then one definitely had to have the cultivation level of Spiritual Ocean Tier and above, or be backed by a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite. For example, the members of the main branch of middle-class clans were able to make a reservation. However, they still needed to make the reservation in advance, because the business of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion was really too good. If they did not make the reservation well in advance, they would not be able to get a table.

And in the case of side courtyards, one would at least require the cultivation level of Spiritual Pedestal Tier or the backing of a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite to be able to make a reservation for a side courtyard.

"Brother Ling, you're not joking with me, are you?" This surprise was huge, leaving Jin Wuji stuttering in his words.

Chapter 164: Snobbish Relatives

"Don't worry!" Ling Han laughed and asked, "When do you intend to treat Miss Jiang's family members?"

"When is the earliest possible time you can get a reservation, Brother Ling?" Jin Wuji asked in return. He naturally wanted it to be done as soon as possible.

Ling Han spread his hands, and answered, "Whichever day is fine for me. If you're in a rush, I can get one even tonight."

Even tonight?

Jin Wuji's heartbeat sped up a bit more. What kind of concept was that?

Members of the Eight Great Clans as well as the Imperial Family of course had the ability to reserve a side courtyard at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, but, even they would not be able to go there at the drop of a hat. Even these extremely important people had to make reservations well in advance. Only a very rare few had the special privilege to make use of a side courtyard of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion without making any reservations in advance. The Cherishing Flower Pavilion had the practice of setting apart a few side courtyards that were specifically for such emergencies and could be used without any reservations at all.

For example, the Third Imperial Prince was one who had this special privilege.

But, who was the Third Imperial Prince? He was a genius of martial arts on his own, with a cultivation level of the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier, also one of the heirs to the throne! In the future, he would definitely become a very powerful person!

But what about Ling Han, then? Could it be that he also had this kind of special privilege?

Jin Wuji was really astonished. He knew that Ling Han was a

monster who had charged out like a dark horse to take the first place in the Da Yuan Tournament, and had even managed to obtain the full support of three Black Grade low level alchemists.

But, that was only in Da Yuan City. This was the Imperial City! Ling Han had just been here for a few days, and he was already so high up on the social ladder?

To compare yourself with others would indeed drive one crazy.

Jin Wuji could not help but sigh internally. He had been in the Imperial City for more than three years, but aside from the significant increase of his cultivation level, there was not even one bit of increase to his personal status. If he compared himself with Ling Han, he would really die of embarrassment.

He had no suspicions that Ling Han was just bluffing. Ling Han could be a joker at times, but he would never make unrealistic boasts on matters like this.

"Tonight, then!" Jin Wuji said, barely able to hide the excitement on his face.

For a minor clan like the Jiang Clan, they wouldn't even be able to step through the main doors of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, what more to have a meal at one of the side courtyards within. After this night, what need would there be for him to still fear that the Jiang Clan would continue to look down on him and object to his and Jiang Fei Yan's marriage?

"All right!" Ling Han nodded.

"Thank you, Brother Ling! Thank you, Brother Ling!" Jin Wuji bowed repeatedly, obviously very excited. He secretly decided that no matter what favors Ling Han needed from him in the future, he would do everything in his might to help him.

He turned and left—it was naturally to inform the Jiang Clan about the dinner tonight. This was something he should be very proud of to announce.

Meanwhile, Ling Han remained in his courtyard, immersing himself in comprehending the art of the sword. He had reached a bottleneck and had been stuck on mere six flashes of Sword Qi for a very long time. Yet, somehow he had still not managed to break through and form the seventh flash of Sword Qi.

In truth, even if it was an extremely capable swordsman, it was already very impressive to be able to form a single flash of Sword Qi in ten years' time. Moreover, the more flashes of Sword Qi one managed to form, the more they would slow down in their advance. By the time a swordsman got to be about a hundred years old, if he had managed to form ten flashes of Sword Qi, he would be praised as a genius of martial arts.

However, Ling Han was not satisfied. His starting point was well ahead of all others, so naturally he could not compare himself with the normal rate of advance.

Previously, he had spent a lot of time on discussions of the art of the sword with Mo Gao. Mo Gao was a mad genius who had actually managed to touch a sliver of the the mysteries of Sword Heart and had given Ling Han a lot of inspiration. On the spot, Ling Han had managed to form his sixth flash of Sword Qi. However, this had also expended all the accumulated understanding he had built up, so it would be indeed difficult for him to advance another step forward in a short period of time.

Ling Han sat in a cross-legged position, holding his right index finger out as if it was a sword he was wielding. He continued to wave his finger around in various sword movements, examining the art of the sword that he had managed to comprehend so far in his mind.

Before he knew it, it was already noon. He stopped and got up to prepare food for Hu Niu—the food for himself and the Liu sisters was just cooked in passing; it would be an accomplishment enough if they even managed to finish off a hundredth of the food that he had prepared.

He spent the afternoon on his studies of the art of the sword. For Ling Han, there was nothing much that the Academy could teach him. Before he came, he had already decided that the primary purpose he was here was just to make Ling Dong Xing happy. However, the path he was meant to walk in the future had already been well planned in advance by him.

In the evening, he brought Hu Niu along with him to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion. He merely flashed the Cherishing Flower Command, and automatically, there were female attendants leading him to an elegant side courtyard and enquiring him about the dishes and wines to be served for the dinner tonight.

The appetizers were served first. When Hu Niu saw them, she could not help but feel her appetite stirred up and failed to hold back from stealing a few bites, causing the eight female attendants serving them to cover their mouths as they smiled secretly.

Ling Han would naturally not reprimand her either. After all, he was not short of money now. If she finished off a plate, then he'd just have another plate served.

After about half an hour, a company of eight walked in, led by a female attendant. Aside from Jin Wuji, the other seven people of this party was naturally the members of the Jiang Clan. They included Jiang Fei Yan and her parents, as well as her two aunts and their two sons.

"So this is a side courtyard of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion. It's really too beautiful. In the past, we only managed to get into the ordinary rooms of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion."

"Looks like Fei Yan has really found the right guy this time. He can even manage to make a reservation for a side courtyard of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion!"

"Yes, yes. I heard that only members of the Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family have the ability to reserve a side courtyard here. Then wouldn't that mean that we are at the same level as the

Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family now?"

The older members of the Jiang Clan were all looking very excited. As a minor clan, they did not have much to worry about. The only thing they lacked was advancement in their social status and recognition of their status. Merely having dinner here tonight would be enough for them to boast for the rest of their lives.

"Do you have any souvenirs here that I can attach to my clothes?" Eldest Aunt immediately asked one of the female attendants. If there were, then she would definitely attach it to her clothes everyday and would show it to everyone she met.

The female attendant stared blankly. Those who were able to come here to spend money were naturally of extremely high status, so she had never been asked such a question by anyone else before. She could not help but be stunned for a moment, before replying, "We don't!"

"How could you not have any?" Youngest Aunt also leaned over, "Why not you ask someone to prepare one for us?"

"That's right! That's right! Prepare one!" Eldest Aunt said hurriedly.

When they heard the words of these two senior relatives, Jin Wuji and Jiang Fei Yan both blushed to the roots of their hair, feeling unbearably ashamed. Meanwhile, those two cousins of Jiang Fei Yan kept staring pervertedly at the faces and breasts of the female attendants with deep focus.

"Brother Jin!" Ling Han stood and waved at Jin Wuji.

"Brother Ling!" Jin Wuji returned the gesture, filled with gratitude.

"Haha, thank you very much, Brother Jin. Thanks to you, I can also enjoy a meal at this Cherishing Flower Pavilion for once," Ling Han said, smiling.

Jin Wuji knew that Ling Han was trying to put him in a high

position. He could not help feeling very touched by the action, and only nodded repeatedly.

Ling Han smiled. Though there had been a little conflict between himself and Jin Wuji and Jin Wuxiang, Jin Wuji had already apologized long ago, so everything was forgotten. And afterwards, Jin Wuji purposely forfeited his match at the Da Yuan Tournament, and even brought his own people to help rescue Ling Dong Xing. Whether or not Ling Han had needed it, all these were debts that Ling Han owed.

Debts would naturally have to be repaid, so Ling Han was very willing to act as a minor role to cast a better light on Jin Wuji.

"You naturally have to thank our Wuji!" Eldest Aunt wore a very despising expression, looking very disdainful. "I heard that you are a friend of Wuji's from the Da Yuan City. You are indeed a country bumpkin that doesn't know the rules of proper society. It was already nice enough to invite you to dinner, and you actually brought a little girl along with you."

Jin Wuji's expression changed immediately, and he was about to speak up. Yet when he saw Ling Han shake his head at him, he could only swallow the urge down.

Ling Han did not take the words of Eldest Aunt to heart at all. They went in one ear and out the other. What need was there for him to take such a vulgar person seriously? After all, they would only be meeting this once. In the future, he would not see these people again.

Thankfully, the members of the Jiang Clan were all mesmerized by the new sights they saw since it was their first time entering into a side courtyard of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion. When the dishes were served one after another, as smoothly as the flow of water, they could not bother with displaying disdain for Ling Han any longer and began enjoying the food.

"Aiya!" One of the female attendants suddenly exclaimed in

shock, pointed at the Jiang Fei Yan's eldest cousin, and said, "He, he touched my bottom!"

Chapter 165: Guess Whom We Saw?

"Why are you making such a fuss? You have a tiger's bottom, is it that I can't even touch?" Zhang Hua Lian, the eldest cousin, humphed, looking very displeased. After all, touching someone else's bottom was a very lowly thing to do—even he, who thought himself a casanova, would not want to be exposed for doing such a thing in such a public venue.

"Aren't you going to apologize to my cousin?" Tong Yuan, the second cousin, spoke up as well, arrogance all over his face. "We are the most honored customers of your Cherishing Flower Pavilion! Do you know who honored customers are? Those who are able to enter into a side courtyard are all in the ranks of Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites. One word from us, and your whole family would be dead!"

The female attendant looked both angry and embarrassed. However, she was only a female attendant with little power. It was obviously she who had experienced a loss, yet now, according to them, it was also she who was in the wrong.

The two aunts looked on indifferently. In their eyes, a mere female attendant was naturally not worth even a single hair off the heads of their sons. So what if their son touched her bottom? She wouldn't lose a pound of flesh anyway. Moreover, weren't the women here all selling their bodies? What was the point in acting all noble now?

"Eldest Cousin, Second Cousin, just let it go!" Jiang Fei Yan spoke up. As a woman, she was naturally sympathizing with the female attendant. However, the one who had taken advantage was her own cousin. She couldn't possibly help outsiders against her own family members, right?

"Fei Yan, you are going to be a bride of a major clan in future, and going to have a very noble status. There is no need for you to

sympathize with these little b*****!" Eldest Aunt immediately said to Jiang Fei Yan in a lecturing tone.

"That's right, Fei Yan. You can't be too kind. As the matriarch of a major clan, you must learn to be ruthless in your ways," Youngest Aunt continued. Both Jiang Fei Yan's own parents remained silent, however. From the looks of it, both her parents did not have much of a voice within the Jiang Clan. Instead, they couldn't even compare with these two daughters who had married outside the clan.

The truth was indeed so. The current clan head of the Jiang Clan was Jiang Fei Yan's grandmother, and she very much doted on these two daughters of hers who had married outside the clan because they had both managed to marry well—both their husbands were members of middle-class clans. Though their husbands were not very important in their own clans, they still benefited from the protection and influence of their clans. Naturally, they were very confident in front of their relatives who were only members of a minor clan.

Every time they returned to their parents' home, they would strut around in front of their siblings. As time passed, Jiang Fei Yan's parents spoke less, allowing these two aunts to speak as much as they liked.

This time, the plans to marry Jiang Fei Yan off to a middle-class clan was naturally the handiwork of these two aunts. In their eyes, this was naturally all for Jiang Fei Yan's own good.

However, Jin Wuji suddenly transformed to become so awesome that he could even manage to reserve a side courtyard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion. The attitudes of these two aunts naturally changed, and they began to mend their relationship with Jiang Fei Yan's father, intending to get to a higher position through the help of Jin Wuji in the future.

The female attendant was already crying from the harsh words of

these two aunts. Unfortunately, the Cherishing Flower Pavilion had its own rules. She did not dare to cover up her face and leave at all.

Zhang Hua Lian saw this and became even bolder as he said, "Come and sit beside me. Accompany me for a cup of wine."

"Hmph!" Ling Han stood up. He knew that the members of the Jiang Clan were snobbish and overbearing, yet had never thought that even two juniors would behave so lecherously out in the open. He approached that female attendant, handed her a monetary note, and said, "I am really sorry. This is a small token from me. Though it cannot compensate for the wounds to your self-esteem, but please accept it."

That female attendant took one look at the monetary note, and paled in shock. It was a monetary note worth ten thousand silver coins!

One had to understand that she was only a female attendant who had a cultivation level of the seventh layer of Body Refining Tier. The most she could earn in a single month would be about three hundred silver coins. Though this was also quite a considerable sum of money, when compared with the colossal amount of ten thousand, there was indeed a huge difference.

"Mister, I do not dare accept!" she said, blushing.

"Just accept it!" Ling Han said, smiling. He waved his hand and said, "We do not need your service here anymore. All of you may leave!"

"Yes, Mister!" The eight female attendants all bowed in response. They naturally were well aware that the real boss here was Ling Han, and they all looked at Ling Han with gratitude in their eyes. When their eyes swept over the few members of the Jiang Clan, their gazes were filled with strong disdain and despise.

"Who allowed you to leave? All of you are to stay here!" Zhang

Hua Lian immediately called out.

"That's right. How dare you leave?" Tong Yuan even stood up, and from the look of him, he was planning to stop them from leaving.

Jin Wuji hurriedly stood as well and pushed Tong Yuan back into his seat as he said, "Second Cousin, forget about it." He was aware that Ling Han was already displeased. If Tong Yuan dared to step forward and make trouble, Ling Han would most likely fly into a rage on the spot.

Those two aunts of the Jiang Clan were also about to explode, but when they saw that Jin Wuji had spoken up to settle the issue, they could only push down their anger. They did not dare offend Jin Wuji now. After all, he was a man who could manage to reserve a side courtyard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion.

"Wuji, Youngest Aunt is not really trying to reprimand you. However, your kindness to your friends is because of your own loyalty to friends, but friends would still be outsiders. How could they be as dependable as your own people!" Youngest Aunt pursed her lips, targeting Ling Han with her words.

"That's right. Just take a look. You kindly invited your friend over to broaden his horizons, and what does he do? He actually brought a filthy little girl with him. She looks like she has not eaten anything in her entire life. How embarrassing. My advice is, it's best to break off the friendship with such a person!" Eldest Aunt said as well.

The two had not spoken in very low voices, obviously deliberately loud enough for Ling Han to hear their words.

Jin Wuji received a horrible scare. Break off the friendship with such a person? If he did not have the friendship with such a person, how would you all be able to sit here to enjoy dinner tonight? He stole a look at Ling Han, and when he saw that Ling Han did not appear to be angry, he was greatly relieved. Still, he

did not dare to allow these two shrews to continue with their words, and quickly said, "Come, come, come. Everyone, please enjoy your drinks and food! Uncle, Aunty, please allow me to offer you a drink!"

He raised his head directly, and drained his cup.

Ling Han knew that Jin Wuji was making his apologies in this way. He smiled calmly. Tonight's dinner was to repay Jin Wuji's previous favors to him, so he would naturally not easily be angered. All would depend on whether those two aunts of the Jiang Clan continued to seek their deaths.

After a few rounds of wine, they were all a bit tipsy. Eldest Aunt stood up, and said to Youngest Aunt, "We have never been to a side courtyard before. Let's go stroll around. Who knows, we might meet with some important people. If we manage to befriend them, then we'd flourish in the future!"

"Right, right, right!" Youngest Aunt hurriedly stood up as well.

This pair of snobbish sisters leaned on each other and made their way out. However, after only a few moments, they returned, and it was as if their faces were shining. "Guess whom we saw just now?"

Without waiting for an answer, they both quickly answered their own question. "Grandmaster Yuanchu Yuan! Do you all know who Grandmaster Yuanchu is? A Black Grade middle level alchemist! His status is high enough to scare all of you to death!"

The members of the Jiang Clan did indeed receive a scare. That was a Black Grade middle level alchemist they were talking about. A being like that was like a mountain to them, someone that they could only look up to.

"Hua Lian, Yuan'er, come with me, quick. Let's go and greet Grandmaster Yuanchu. Who knows, when Grandmaster Yuanchu is happy, he'd decide to concoct a few furnaces' worth of alchemical pills for us. By that time, it would be very easy for the

two of you to break through to Element Gathering Tier," Eldest Aunt said excitedly. That was why the two of them had returned in such a hurry.

"That would not be appropriate, would it? Grandmaster Yuanchu is of very noble status. If we so rashly disturb him, it may possibly anger Grandmaster Yuanchu," Jin Wuji said immediately. Ling Han did not get angry for his sake, but who was Grandmaster Yuanchu? There was no way that he would give face to Jin Wuji, and definitely not to the Jiang Clan.

"Che, we are now high up on the social ladder as well. We're just asking for a few furnaces' worth of pills!" Youngest Aunt said calmly.

You two are f***** idiots!

Jin Wuji cursed internally. He suddenly felt an uncontrollable urge to rush forward and slap these two silly.

Chapter 166: Getting Into Trouble

Anyone who could manage to sit and dine in a side courtyard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion was considered of extremely noble status. What kind of bizarre theory was that?

These two idiots... Who was Grandmaster Yuanchu? If they dared to so rashly barge in, who knows if he would be angered by their lack of manners? Even if they were killed right on the spot, they would have died for nothing.

Unfortunately, this pair of sisters had already lost their wits.

"Mother, can we really break through to Element Gathering Tier?" Zhang Hua Lian asked very excitedly.

"Of course. He is an authentic Black Grade middle level alchemist. Breaking through to Gushing Spring Tier would be a piece of cake with his help, what more Element Gathering Tier!" Eldest Aunt waved her hand, acting as if Yuanchu was her servant that she could command to concoct alchemical pills as she liked.

"Good, good, good. Quickly, let's go!" Zhang Hua Lian and Tong Yuan both stood up hurriedly. Neither of them were very talented in martial arts and had been stuck in the ninth layer of Body Refining Tier for quite some time without any hint of breaking through any time soon. In the Imperial City, this kind of cultivation level was really considered trash.

The two mother-and-son pairs impatiently rushed out. Jiang Fei Yan's parents were about to stop them from leaving, when Ling Han signalled at Jin Wuji with his eyes, indicating him to stop the Jiang parents from doing anything.

"Just let them experience a little hardship!" Ling Han said calmly.

"Brother Ling, that's Grandmaster Yuanchu we're talking about here. If he were to get angry..." Jin Wuji was no idiot. If a Black Grade middle level alchemist wanted to oppose a minor clan who

only had a background of Gushing Spring Tier, that would only require a mere thought from the former.

He would not care if those two unreasonable, snobbish mother-and-son pairs died as a result of their idiocy, but worried that they would also drag the Jiang Clan down with them.

"No matter," Ling Han smiled faintly. If it was anyone else, he would still have to do something to settle the issue. However, it was Yuanchu. He was practically Ling Han's lackey.

Jiang Fei Yan's parents were not fools. When they heard the conversation between the two young men, how could they not understand? They finally knew that Ling Han was the real reason why they were able to enter into Cherishing Flower Pavilion. How foolish and funny of them to have thought that Ling Han had come over to join in the dinner on Jin Wuji's invitation.

"Since Brother Ling says so, then I am relieved." When Jin Wuji saw that Jiang Fei Yan and her parents had understood the ins and outs of the situation, he naturally would not continue to hide the truth, and said, "It is all thanks to Brother Ling that I was able to reserve a side courtyard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion this time. I am only benefiting from my association with you."

The Jiang parents both smiled. Firstly, they were not as snobbish as those two aunts, and secondly, they were smarter than them. It was all right that it was not Jin Wuji's credit that they were able to come here. The important thing was that Jin Wuji had this kind of relationship, friend and background.

In the future, as long as Jin Wuji was able to marry Jiang Fei Yan, then others would still give a bit of face to the Jiang Clan, even if only for Ling Han's sake.

It was an extremely pleasurable thing to interact with smart people, and the air around the banquet table became livelier. Even Hu Niu was clapping her hands on the table, demanding to drink wine, which caused all the others to laugh at her antics.

On the surface, the little girl was still very adorable and cute, so much that Jiang Fei Yan continuously stared at her.

"Since Miss Jiang likes children so much, why not quickly marry Brother Jin and have a cute son of your own? I will definitely prepare a very, very big red packet as a gift at that time!" Ling Han teased.

Jiang Fei Yan instantly blushed red and lowered her head shyly. Meanwhile, Jin Wuji was much bolder than her, and said with a loud laugh, "Brother Ling, that's what you said. A very, very big red packet, right? I will remember your words, and you definitely can't break your word!"

"Niu wants red packet too!" Hu Niu proclaimed, raising her hand.

"Just eat, you!" Ling Han shoved a chicken thigh into her hands, and the little girl immediately began chewing on it happily.

"Wu, wu, wu!" It was at this moment that the door to the side courtyard was pushed open. Zhang Hua Lian and Tong Yuan were both supporting their respective mothers as they entered. All four of them were scowling miserably, and looked as if they had just received a terrible thrashing. They were all black and blue, making for a very sorry display.

With all said and done, Jiang Fei Yan's father was still the younger brother of these two women. He hurriedly stood up, and asked, "What has happened?"

"Uncle!" Zhang Hua Lian and Tong Yuan were both shivering in fear as they said, "We went over to request Grandmaster Yuanchu to help us concoct some alchemical pills, but he did not agree to our request. Mother and Youngest Aunt said some rash things, which angered Grandmaster Yuanchu. He had us beaten up, and said, and said that he would be coming over later to see what clan would dare to act so arrogant!"

"Uncle, I'm still young! I don't want to die! You have to save me!"

"Wuji, I am your Eldest Cousin. You can't simply stand by and watch as I die, right? You must have some way to save us, right?" One of the cousins begged for Jiang Fei Yan's father to help them, while the other pled with Jin Wuji to save them.

Jiang Fei Yan's father immediately frowned, and looked very displeased. These two sisters of his kept trying to make him lose face within the clan and had even allowed their two sons to interfere in the matters of the Jiang Clan. They were obviously intending to make a grab for the family property of the Jiang Clan.

He could tolerate all this because he was not a person who placed a lot of importance on power and material things in the first place. Moreover, he only had a single daughter, and his one and only wish was for his daughter to marry a good man. Then, he would be able to leave all his worries behind, and travel all over the world with his beloved wife...

But these two idiots actually went and angered a Black Grade alchemist... were they trying to drag the Jiang Clan down with them?

There was too much involved in this issue. There was absolutely no way that he would allow the whole Jiang Clan to fall as a result of their stupidity and die with them, so he said, "You were the ones who caused the trouble. You figure out how to get Grandmaster Yuanchu's forgiveness on your own!"

"Jiang Bo Xin, you're really too ruthless!" Eldest Aunt instantly jumped up, baring her fangs and brandishing her claws. "These are your flesh-and-blood nephews, and you want to just stand by and watch as they die?"

Jiang Fei Yan's father could not help but shake his head. These two sisters of his had not even realized the errors of their ways. They were really unreasonable. Then, he asked furiously, "What did you actually say to Grandmaster Yuanchu that he would be making his way here personally?"

"Er!" Eldest Aunt and the other three all exchanged hesitant looks, but did not say anything.

According to what Jiang Fei Yan's father knew of their characters, how could he not guess? The four of them must have dragged everyone here into the issue in order to escape. They must have bluffed and said some grand names to be able to escape out of that situation.

After all, those who were able to reserve a side courtyard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion were all of extremely noble status. Grandmaster Yuanchu would definitely not drop to the level of the four idiots, but would still make his way to personally see the host here. He would be calling the main host to account for the offense that these four had committed.

They were really going to suffer, and everything was because of these four idiots.

Jiang Fei Yan's father suddenly felt an urge to spit out blood in his extreme fury. It was already enough that these two mother-and-son pairs were as stupid as pigs, but they actually even implicated others, making him feel an uncontrollable urge to tear all four of them into pieces.

From outside, the sound of footsteps was heard coming nearer and nearer. Then, a knock was heard on the door, and a man's voice said, "We are here on behalf of Grandmaster Yuanchu to pay our respects to the host of this side courtyard."

Shua , Jin Wuji and the others all stood, all of them looking very anxious.

Though Ling Han had already assured them just now that everything would be alright, he was really still much too young. Who would put too much confidence in his words? When they thought about it, even if Ling Han was awesome, the source of his awesomeness must be from the party behind him. But what party could actually overcome the fury of a Black Grade middle level

alchemist?

Within Rain Country, there were only a few individuals who would have such ability, such as the current Rain Emperor and the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans.

"Quickly, go and receive Grandmaster Yuanchu!" Jiang Fei Yan's father said hurriedly. He did not believe that Ling Han's backer could be even more powerful than a Black Grade middle level alchemist—it was simple, Ling Han was not a member of the Imperial Family of Rain Country, nor one of the younger members of the Eight Great Clans.

All of them approached the door. Everyone was shuddering apprehensively. The pressure of an oncoming meeting with a Black Grade middle level alchemist was really much too heavy.

Ling Han meanwhile remained seated where he was, and together with Hu Niu, continued to enjoy his food.

Chapter 167: Pursuing the Matter

"Which clan are you all from? How dare you be so bold to actually command Grandmaster Yuanchu to concoct alchemical pills for you! I really want to know if you all are from the Imperial Family or the Eight Great Clans!"

They were from the Wu Clan, one of the Eight Great Clans. Because the Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family were all very familiar with one another, they naturally knew that none of these people came from one of these nine powerful parties, and since they were not, what other party would be more powerful than the Wu Clan in the whole of Rain Country?

In their minds, these people must have come from some backwater place and gone through some unknown relations to be able to enter into a side courtyard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion. Thus, they thought themselves superior to all others that they would even dare to be so insolent in front of Grandmaster Yuanchu.

"We, we..." Eldest Aunt was shivering so much she kept stuttering. Her eyes were filled with a strong fear as she had already recognized the clan insignia that these three men were wearing—the Wu Clan!

One of the Eight Great Clans!

Though she had married into a good clan, it was only a middle-class clan. Moreover, her husband was only a minor character with little actual power in the clan. If he knew that she actually offended the Wu Clan, it was practically guaranteed that he would cut off her head at the earliest opportunity and head to the Wu Clan to beg for forgiveness.

The Eight Great Clans had the authority to decide one's life and death, and were only beneath the Imperial Family in terms of power!

"I, I, what I? Say it quickly, who gave you the audacity to actually dare shout commands at Grandmaster Yuanchu?" The three men of the Wu Clan pressed menacingly, smiling coldly at them.

Jiang Fei Yan's father almost fainted in shock and terror. He had only heard his two elder sisters downplay the real situation, about how their request for Grandmaster Yuanchu to concoct alchemical pills for them had been refused. He had never imagined that his two stupid sisters would actually dare act so insolently to Grandmaster Yuanchu. He was completely pale by this point.

If a Black Grade middle level alchemist were to be angered, and the Wu Clan of the Eight Great Clans stepped out to punish the offender, the Jiang Clan was definitely going to be finished and no one would dare to speak a single word in their defense.

Wouldn't that be the case? Who asked them to offend an alchemist in the first place?

Alchemists were an outstanding group of their own. They were a group of people others wanted nothing more than favor and goodwill of, and what do you do? You actually dare to behave so rudely to an alchemist. Who else were they going to kill if not you?

"Old Six, Old Eight, go and slap them. The mouths of these two b***** are really too smelly. Just now, because Grandmaster Yuanchu was there, we did not have enough fun slapping them. Go and continue slapping them!" a green-robed middle-aged man said.

"All right!" The other two walked forwards to grab Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt.

Both of them were in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, and had outstandingly strong ability. Though Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt wanted to flee, how could things go their way? They were instantly caught.

Pa, pa, pa, pa. The two shrews with bad mouths were continuously slapped, and very quickly, their faces were

completely swollen. They even spat out a few pieces of broken teeth, and this was still because the two men had pulled their punches. Otherwise, if they had really used their full strength, what could two mere weaklings in Body Refining Tier do?

Zhang Hua Lian and Tong Yuan did not even dare to say one word. They could only curl around one another and hide in a corner.

"I am a daughter-in-law of Duanmu Clan. Don't kill me!" Eldest Aunt sobbed. Her face that used to be quite smooth and rounded was now completely covered with blood and tears, making for an indescribably ugly picture.

"Duanmu Clan?" the green-robed man humphed. "When has the Duanmu Clan become so awesome? I'd really like to get an explanation from Duanmu Xiang."

Duanmu Xiang was the current clan head of the Duanmu Clan, but from the tone that this green-robed man was using, he obviously did not think that he was anyone important, causing Eldest Aunt to be filled with hopelessness. The emergency situation caused her brain to work faster, and she hurriedly called out, "Wuji! Wuji! Save me!"

"That's right, Wuji. Since you can manage to reserve a side courtyard here, your status must not be beneath his. Announce your status to scare him to death!" Youngest Aunt suddenly called out as well, as if she had just woken up from a dream.

"Ha, haha!" the green-robed man laughed coldly. Someone actually wanted to use his status to scare him to death. Then he really wanted to know what person could be so awesome.

Jin Wuji only felt a layer of cold sweat covering his body. He was only the Third Young Master of the Jin Clan of Da Yuan City. In Da Yuan City, this identity was indeed enough to scare a lot of people to death, but when in the Imperial City, pei , it was nothing!

"What Wuji are you?" The green-robed man smiled coldly. "I am standing right here. Tell me your name, and see if you can scare me to death?"

"This sir must be joking. This is all just a misunderstanding!" Jin Wuji said, raising his clasped hands politely in greeting. "These two seniors have drunk too much, and that's why they had so boldly went off to look for Grandmaster Yuanchu. I would very much like to ask for forgiveness from all of you as well as Grandmaster Yuanchu."

"Hehe, do you know what this shrew actually called Grandmaster Yuanchu?" There was a sliver of a mocking smile about the corners of the green-robed man's lips. "Old dog! Did you hear that, they actually dared to call Grandmaster Yuanchu old dog! I have lived for so many years and this is the first time I've seen someone actually dared to insult Grandmaster Yuanchu as old dog!"

Jin Wuji and the other three members of the Jiang Clan all turned pale. They had almost leaped forwards to strangle these two shrews to death!

If they wanted to die, then they should just die on their own! Why had they come back to drag others down with them?

Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt were both filled with absolute regret. Part of the reason they dared to behave so arrogantly was because they had suddenly been able to sit within a side courtyard of Cherishing Flower Pavilion, making them feel as if their social status had shot up all of a sudden. But the more important reason was because they were indeed drunk.

Otherwise, no matter how idiotic they were, they would not have dared to so rashly request for alchemical pills from Grandmaster Yuanchu, what more insult him as old dog after being refused.

But now, it was all too late!

"Nothing more to say, right?" The green-robed man crossed his

hands behind his back, his eyes sweeping over the surroundings, and gave a humph, as he said, "You country bumpkins are indeed arrogant. I've already been here for such a long time, and there is actually someone who still dares to remain seated!"

He had finally spotted Ling Han.

Ling Han did not even spare him a look. He only focused all his energy on fighting with Hu Niu over the food. He was naturally just playing with the little girl, because even if he had managed to successfully grab any food, he would not eat it. He was already full.

"How insolent. Seeing your father here, you still dare to remain seated?" The green-robed man glared, and a domineering pressure emanated from him.

Ling Han's eyes turned cold, and gave a wave of his hand. The bone in his hand immediately flew towards the green-robed man.

The green-robed man stretched out a hand to grab the bone, but just when his hand was about to come into contact with it, the piece of bone actually miraculously turned in a different direction, passed his hand, and with a pa , hit his face.

Firstly, he had underestimated his opponent, and secondly, Ling Han had tossed it in a strange way, which was what allowed for such a thing to happen.

"You, are, seeking, death!" the green-robed man roared furiously. He leaped forwards towards Ling Han and brandished his fist, preparing to give Ling Han a thrashing.

Ling Han's feet pressed down on the ground, and he had shot backwards. Using the Exiting Cloud Steps was something that he could do easily.

A weakling of mere Element Gathering Tier actually could act so calmly when under the assault of a Gushing Spring Tier elite?

The green-robed man did not manage to hit his target, but when he still did not manage to take Ling Han down after a few moves, a

serious expression came over his face. He stopped his attack, and said, "Brat, who are you?"

"Slap yourself ten times first. Then I'll talk to you," Ling Han said calmly. This man actually dared to call himself Ling Han's father right in front of him, how could he let him off without a thrashing?

"What arrogance!" the green-robed man humphed coldly, and once again began attacking Ling Han.

Xiu , Hu Niu quickly scrambled down from the chair and shot towards the green-robed man at an extremely fast speed.

"Yi!" The green-robed man had not taken Hu Niu into account at first. But when the little girl moved, he experienced a sudden shock that this little girl who was only 5-6 years old was actually in Element Gathering Tier!

Who would dare believe it?

But due to his extreme fury, he decided to do something very underhanded. Since he could do nothing to Ling Han, then he'd just hurt this little girl instead! A cold smile appeared on his face, and he suddenly delivered a punch that made its way ruthlessly towards Hu Niu.

"You dare!" Ling Han roared in anger. This man would actually cause such heavy injury to such a little girl, he was practically inhumane! He quickly leaped forwards, intending to block this punch for Hu Niu.

Chapter 168: Hu Niu's Sneaky Kick

Ling Han was too far to be able to help Hu Niu, and right when he saw the fist of this green-robed man was just about to hit Hu Niu's body, the little girl suddenly twisted away in a strange manner and dodged the incoming attack. In an instant, she appeared behind the green-robed man, formed her hands into claws and shua, shua, shua , delivered her own attack.

Peng, peng, peng . An intensive round of attacks was heard, and the green-robed man once again paid the price for his carelessness. His back suffered a number of continuous attacks, and the clothing on his body was torn into pieces that flew around him like butterflies, followed by drops of blood spraying everywhere.

Who would have thought that a little girl only 5-6 years old would have such formidable ability?

However, there was ultimately a very big power gap between Element Gathering and Gushing Spring Tier. Though the green-robed man looked to be in a terrible situation, he had already used Origin Power to protect his body. Thus, he did not suffer a serious injury. All his bones and internal organs were unharmed.

Even so, he let out an ashamed and furious roar. He was a powerful elite warrior of the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and he was actually so horribly wounded by a little girl.

"Die!" He shot a punch towards Hu Niu who was still on his back.

Hu Niu immediately moved, and twisted around to place herself on the green-robed man's chest. Peng , he did not manage to stop his punch in time and actually punched his own back. The extreme pain caused his face to turn green, and tears uncontrollably rolled down his cheeks from the agony.

Ling Han's cultivation level may have dropped, but his eyes were still very sharp. One look, and he did not worry anymore. Hu Niu

was going to be absolutely okay.

"Ah, get away from me!" The green-robed man once again shot out his fist, this time towards his chest. But it was as if Hu Niu was a monkey. She quickly and nimbly moved, and was now hanging onto his thigh.

This time, the green-robed man finally learnt his lesson. He managed to stop his own attack in time. Unfortunately, Hu Niu delivered a sneaky kick right to his vulnerable b****.

So what if he was in Gushing Spring Tier? There was still a lot of weaknesses on a person's body, such as the eyes, Dantian, and for men, their d****. This kick was very solid and powerful. Immediately, the green-robed man used his hands to cover the place between his legs. He was swaying on his feet, and his whole face was red as he ground his teeth loudly. It was very clear to see that the veins on his neck were throbbing, but he could not even force out a single word in his agony.

All the men in the area could not help but cross their legs tightly together as they felt a coldness in their hearts that gave rise to a layer of cold sweat.

Hu Niu jumped off, and clung onto Ling Han. She turned around and made a face at the green-robed man, as if she was merely an innocent, mischievous little girl.

Pa , the green-robed man fell into a half-kneeling position on the ground. His whole body was spasming. It was obvious that this kick had injured him very severely.

Who would have thought that a powerful elite of Gushing Spring Tier would be defeated by a little girl in such a humiliating way? That's right. Such a move would incur disdain if it were anyone else, but if it were Hu Niu, it was only to be expected.

A big, strong man like you actually lowered yourself to bully a little girl. Even if your b**** were crushed, you would have

deserved it. Moreover, you are in Gushing Spring Tier, and your opponent is only a little kid 5-6 years old. This was a matter of unbearable shame and humiliation.

"Good job!" Ling Han gave Hu Niu a thumbs up. "If anyone else dares to bully you in future, just kick them so hard you crush their b****! If you get into trouble, don't worry! I'll be there to defend you!"

"Niu understands!" Hu Niu gave a wide, sweet smile.

Right. How could he teach a child like that? Wasn't he worried that he would be a bad influence on her, and that she would become a female hooligan when she grew up?

"You, you're in big trouble! We are members of the Wu Clan! The Wu Clan! Have you heard of us? We're one of the Eight Great Clans!" The other two members of the Wu Clan tried to put up a strong appearance, though they were very afraid right now. The two of them were barely in Element Gathering Tier.

Don't think that just because they were the clansmen of a Great Clan, they were automatically powerful elites. Every clan had members that were more talented and those that were less talented.

"Then you two should also stay behind as well!" Ling Han made a move, and charged to attack the other two.

At the fourth layer of Element Gathering Tier, he was already strong enough to oppose a powerful elite in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier like Qi Yong Ye. Now that his cultivation level had soared up to the seventh layer, what could these two pieces of trash do against him? With one move, he had subdued the two. Hu Niu moved and gave the two men a violent thrashing.

The members of the Jiang Clan were all watching with a layer of cold sweat covering them. Those were clansmen of the Wu Clan, and they were actually beaten up like they were dead dogs.

Everything was over. Everyone here would be dying. Even Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt could no longer care about continuing to wail about their pains. They hurriedly rushed over, trying to stop Ling Han and Hu Niu, these two maniacs.

Ling Han would naturally not entangle himself with two shrews. He took several steps back. Anyways, he had already had his fun thrashing these three men.

"You're all dead!" The green-robed man finally got his breath back, his face filled with shame and rage. He was in Gushing Spring Tier, and should have been able to easily take all the people here down. Yet, in the end, he was actually so easily defeated at the hands of a little girl. He would never be able to wash away such a shameful thing from his name.

"If you don't speak, no one will think you are mute!" Ling Han delivered a kick, and pa , half the teeth in the green-robed man's mouth was spat out. The pain caused him to cry out. His injuries had become even heavier this time.

The members of the Jiang Clan were all looking at Ling Han as if he was crazy. In their eyes, Ling Han could not possibly have a background that could surpass the Eight Great Clans in terms of power. But he actually dared to thrash the members of the Wu Clan so harshly. Wasn't that like an old man committing suicide? Tired of living?

Even Jin Wuji was completely cold. He was well aware that Ling Han had come from Da Yuan City, just like he had. At most, he was only familiar with a few Black Grade low level alchemists.

They had gotten into trouble! This was really big, big trouble!

"We don't know you!" Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt said in trembling voices. Then they turned to Jiang Fei Yan's father and said, "Jiang Bo Xin, we're also cutting all ties with you! From now onwards, there is no more relation between us! You were the ones who caused this trouble! Don't implicate us in this!"

Jiang Fei Yan, her parents, and Jin Wuji were all furious at their words. These two pairs of mother-and-son were the ones who had so rashly rushed out to find Grandmaster Yuanchu, and had even dared to insult him as old dog. And now they had nothing to do with the issue?

How could there be such shameless people!

"None of you would be able to escape!" the green-robed man said maliciously. His whole lower half was completely numb and he could not feel anything at all, so he had no idea if he was still a man. If he was really disabled as a man, then he would kill everyone here three times to vent his hatred.

"Yi, you still dare to open your mouth?" Ling Han was very surprised and raised his foot once more.

"No!" The green-robed man was terrified. This young man was practically a maniac. He obviously knew that he was from the Wu Clan, and he still dared to attack him. Moreover, every move he made was extremely ruthless, so he was really terrified. Who asked him to be too heavily injured now that he could not even display an ounce of his real strength?

But he swore that he would definitely break Ling Han's bones and throw his ashes to the winds!

"You're not behaving inside your heart!" Ling Han said calmly. Hu Niu immediately bared her teeth and growled, displaying her ferocious nature.

The green-robed man felt his heart tighten. Compared to Ling Han, he was actually more fearful of Hu Niu. This little girl was practically like a demonic beast in human form. You could still reason with humans, still threaten humans or bribe them, but what about demonic beasts? Mere words were completely useless.

"Just give up. Even if I beat you half to death, the seniors of your clan would only say that I did a good thing!" Ling Han said calmly.

‘Nonsense!’ the green-robed man immediately said disdainfully in his heart. Even the members of the Jiang Clan were shaking their heads at this. That was absolutely impossible! The only way that could be possible was if Ling Han was actually the illegitimate son of the Rain Emperor. If he were, then he indeed could possibly make the Wu Clan lower their heads in front of him.

"Zi Feng, have you not settled the issue yet?" It was at this moment that the voice of an old man was heard from outside.

Chapter 169: Grandmaster Yuanchu Who Curries Favor

"Elder Qian Feng!" the green-robed man and his two companions called out in unison, their voices filled with grief and indignation.

How could they not? Usually, only they were able to bully others. Yet now, they were actually thrashed so completely by someone and stepped on today. This was practically enough to drive them insane.

Outside the door, there stood two men. One was an elderly man who looked to be in his sixties. He was dressed in a red robe, his hair completely black and his face very smooth and unblemished. He did not look old at all. The other man was about the same age, and there were two silver-colored badges that hung on his chest. Anyone with a bit of general knowledge would know that this meant that the man was a Black Grade middle level alchemist.

Obviously, one of the men was an Elder of the Wu Clan, Wu Qian Feng, while the other was Grandmaster Yuanchu Yuan.

"Greetings, Grandmaster Yuanchu! Greetings, Master Wu!" The members of the Jiang Clan and the others all stepped forwards to pay their respects. For them, these two were really very important people. Usually, it would be very difficult for them to see two men of such high status, but now, all of a sudden, they had met with two such important men. The overwhelming shock was more than enough to make their legs shiver.

When Yuanchu saw Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt, he could not help but give a humph. An expression of extreme displeasure appeared on his face. These two shrews actually dared to insult him as old dog. For a proud alchemist, that was really an extraordinary shame and humiliation.

"I am not deserving of such respectful greetings from you," he

said coldly.

Actually, with his status, he would not deign to lower himself to the levels of two shrews like them, yet there was too much anger in his heart. If he could not even speak one or two words in mockery, there was no way he could vent this anger. From this aspect, Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt were really quite powerful, as they had actually managed to cause a Black Grade middle level alchemist to lose his composure. This was a feat that not many could boast of accomplishing.

"Grandmaster Yuanchu, we have been blind! Please forgive us and spare us for our insolence!" Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt both knelt on the floor. They continued to slap themselves as they sobbed endlessly.

Yet Yuanchu was not moved at all. He said, "Didn't you say that there was someone here that could subdue me? I have come here now, so call him out!"

Jiang Fei Yan's father and the others were all dumbstruck as they realized how Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt managed to escape! They really were despicable! Just so they could live for a little while longer, they had implicated the rest of them in the trouble they had caused!

Meanwhile, Wu Qian Feng had spotted the green-robed man. His face was completely ashen as he asked, "What is going on here? You all couldn't even capture the few people here?" Members of the Wu Clan were actually so harshly thrashed by another, so much that even their teeth had been punched out. This was absolutely an act of challenging the authority of the Wu Clan.

The green-robed man and his two companions all lowered their heads in shame. How could they tell their clan's elder that they had been defeated by a little girl?

"Which master is here? Since you have made a move to punish my few unworthy juniors, why do you not show yourself to me?"

Wu Qian Feng swept his eyes over everyone here. The most powerful among them was only in the the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, so there was no one here that could possibly defeat Wu Zi Feng.

"It's him!" The green-robed man pointed at Ling Han.

"Him?" Wu Qian Feng looked flabbergasted. This was only a junior merely in the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier. Had Wu Zi Feng lost his mind?

"It's him!" the green-robed man said through gritted teeth, veins on his forehead popping out in his fury. "He used underhanded tricks to defeat me! I would like to ask Elder Qian Feng to act and punish him harshly on our behalf!"

When they heard his words, the members of the Jiang Clan and the others all bore expressions of disdain. You actually lost to a little girl, and you still dare to say that it was because your opponent had used underhanded tricks.

"Oh?" Wu Qian Feng placed his hands behind his back, and as his eyes fell on Ling Han, killing intent exuded from him. Whether or not Ling Han had used any kind of underhanded tricks, since he had dared to make a move against members of the Wu Clan, that was more than enough to sentence him to death.

"Brat, do you want to commit suicide, or wait for me to make the move?" he asked calmly.

Sensing the killing intent emanating from the old man, Hu Niu immediately pounced onto the ground. She raised her head slightly and bared her teeth, an alert expression coming over her face.

"Yi, Hu Niu?" Yuanchu's attention had been completely captured by Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt—in another way, these two shrews were indeed quite "capable" to be able to so thoroughly capture the attention of a Grandmaster Alchemist, so much that he had not noticed the others. It was only now that he had suddenly

discovered that Hu Niu was there.

If Hu Niu was here, then could it be...?!

He hurriedly swept his eyes over his surroundings. When he spotted Ling Han, a bright smile suddenly appeared on his face. In an instant, he had raced over to Ling Han and bent down into a low bow as he said, "I did not know that Young Master Han was here. Please forgive this Yuanchu for not coming out to greet you!"

"Pu!"

When they saw this scene, everyone else immediately choked.

Hey, hey, hey, you are a Black Grade middle level alchemist, someone with extremely noble status. How could you put on such a boot-licking display? His smile was so bright that it was practically dazzling. Damn, he was toadying so much, it was so absolutely shameless of him.

Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt both gaped, their tongues out. Even their eyes looked to be in danger of popping out.

Wasn't that the country bumpkin? Hadn't he come to join in their dinner on Jin Wuji's invitation? Why was it that even a noble alchemist like Grandmaster Yuanchu had to address him so respectfully as Young Master Han? What was going on here?

Wu Qian Feng was also shocked. He was very well aware what the identity of a Black Grade middle level alchemist implied, but even a person of such noble stature was behaving so reverently in front of Ling Han. This was practically unbelievable.

Even if the head of the Wu Clan himself was here, there was absolutely no way that Yuanchu would behave so submissively.

Alchemists were a group of very proud people. If you wanted them to lower their heads to you, the only way to accomplish that would be to surpass them in terms of alchemy. But the problem here was, how old was Ling Han exactly? How could anyone believe that he was above Yuanchu in terms of alchemy skill?

In that instant, the surroundings turned completely quiet. No one spoke a single word.

"Really, what kind of people are you getting yourself involved with?" Ling Han frowned, looking very displeased.

Wu Qian Feng wanted to fly into a rage at that moment. This was practically insulting them in a roundabout manner. If Ling Han was the Grand Elder of one of the Great Clans, he would not react. But a mere wet-behind-the-ears brat like Ling Han actually dared to mock him right in front of his face. How could he endure such humiliation?

"Yes, yes, yes. It is all Yuanchu's fault for not seeing clearly enough. Please forgive my error, Young Master Han." Who would have thought that Yuanchu would actually incessantly admit the error of his ways, his demeanor more and more humble, as if he was Ling Han's alchemy apprentice.

Wu Qian Feng forcibly swallowed the words that were right on the tip of his tongue.

Was Yuanchu an idiot? Of course not. Did Yuanchu have a high status? Of course.

But even Yuanchu had to behave so cautiously and reverently, so how terrifying would Ling Han's real identity be?

Wu Qian Feng was not a rash man. He immediately reconsidered the situation here.

"Forget it!" Ling Han waved his hand, and beamed brightly at Wu Qian Feng as he said, "I was the one who thrashed the members of your Wu Clan, so what do you want to do now?"

What to do? Naturally to kill him in public as a warning to others.

These were Wu Qian Feng's initial thoughts. But how could he dare to have such intentions now? Because Yuanchu was already looking at him in a very unfriendly manner. Obviously, if he dared

to say one word about the matter, Yuanchu would really become hostile immediately.

He gave an internal sigh, and knew that he had lost the battle before it had even started.

There was nothing he could do. Who asked him to have a request to make of Yuanchu? Moreover, even if he had nothing to ask of Yuanchu, his clan would definitely not dare to offend a Black Grade middle level alchemist either.

"Hehe, Young Master Han must be joking. These few guys must have offended Young Master Han. Even if Young Master Han did not make a move, I would have taught them a lesson too," Wu Qian Feng laughed. He looked very natural and his demeanor didn't betray the slightest sign of his previous thoughts.

What an old fox.

Chapter 170: Unless You Want Grandmaster Fu To Act?

The members of the Jiang Clan felt like they were about to pass out from the absolute shock. First, it was Grandmaster Yuanchu who put on a boot-licking display in front of Ling Han, and now, Wu Qian Feng looked completely supportive of Ling Han's actions. They really felt that their world view had completely been shattered to pieces.

But they were not idiots. For example, Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt had already been shocked sober from their drunken state. Now, their whole bodies were shivering as they recalled how they showed much disdain and disrespect to Ling Han. Who knows if he would be calling them to account for it.

They were also filled with overwhelming regret. If they had known that Ling Han was actually such an awesome character, wouldn't it have been great if they had flattered him endlessly just now? Looking at the boot-licking display that Grandmaster Yuanchu was showing now, he would agree even if he was commanded to address them as father, what more concocting a mere few furnaces' worth of alchemical pills.

Who had asked them to act so snobbishly earlier?

Meanwhile, Yuanchu asked angrily, "Young Master Han, what did they do?"

"Oh, this guy called himself my father." Ling Han pointed at the green-robed man.

"Pu," Wu Qian Feng almost leaped up in indignation. Martial artists were typically rough and coarse in their ways. It was very common for them to say things like "Grandson", or "I, your father". You actually gave them such a severe thrashing just because of something like that? Wasn't that a bit of an overreaction?

Yet Yuanchu's expression changed drastically, as he said, "How dare you actually call yourself Young Master Han's father! You deserve to die!"

Who was Ling Han? He was a real Grandmaster Alchemist, and very soon, he would be able to possess the badge of a Black Grade high level alchemist! Moreover, those who had observed Ling Han's alchemy skills yesterday would know that Ling Han was able to concoct alchemical pills close to Earth Grade. That meant that Ling Han actually already had one foot in the ranks of Earth Grade alchemists.

He was such a high-ranking, noble person. Who would be able to call himself Ling Han's father?

Oh, if you've become the father of an Earth Grade alchemist, then wouldn't that mean Black Grade alchemists like them would have become your grandsons, great-grandsons, or great-great-grandsons?

Yuanchu and the other alchemists had already long been subdued by Ling Han's impressive alchemy skills, and took him to be half their master. How could a disciple not be furious when their master was being insulted?

He focused his gaze on the green-robed man and his two companions, and asked coldly, "How do you want to die?"

Damn. Just calling yourself someone's father and it was a death sentence? Then how many people would need to die everyday in Rain Country?

The faces of the green-robed man and his two companions were completely dark. They were the real victims here, and they were so harshly thrashed that they had lost all their teeth. And now, they were actually being asked how they wanted to die? They really felt extremely wronged.

This time, even Wu Qian Feng could no longer overlook the

matter, and asked, "Grandmaster Yuanchu, isn't this going a bit too far?"

"Too far?" Yuanchu smiled coldly, "Then let us go and see Grandmaster Fu Yuan Sheng, and see what Grandmaster Fu would say! However, I can guarantee that if Grandmaster Fu personally makes a move, then that would require a personal apology from the Clan Head of the Wu Clan."

When he had finished saying these words, a dead silence had fallen over the entire side courtyard.

For the Clan Head of the Wu Clan to make a personal apology... what kind of unbelievable concept was that? Even if this brat was Fu Yuan Sheng's own son, he would not dote on him to this extent. It was practically as if Fu Yuan Sheng was worshipping him like a son worshipped his father.

Wu Qian Feng wiped off the layer of cold sweat on his forehead, and said, "Grandmaster Yuanchu, are you joking with me?" No matter how he looked at it, such a brat like Ling Han could not possibly be so capable.

"You can gamble," Yuanchu said coldly.

Wu Qian Feng could not help but hesitate. If Yuanchu was not exaggerating, then if matters advanced to the point that Fu Yuan Sheng would make a move, that would really be a very horrible thing. The question here was, could Yuanchu's words be believed?

It was not likely that a Black Grade alchemist would lie, but the words he had said were really too overwhelming. Wu Qian Feng really found it a very difficult thing to believe.

He could not help but be stuck in a dilemma.

"Forget it. Just have them apologize, and this matter is over." Ling Han gave a wave of his hand in dismissal.

"Young Master Han is indeed magnanimous!" Yuanchu quickly flattered.

This was being magnanimous? He thrashed them and still wanted them to apologize. How could someone be as overbearing as that?

Wu Qian Feng finally sighed. He decided to admit his loss as he had a request to make of Yuanchu. That was the reason why he had invited Yuanchu to dinner here in the first place, but he had never thought that things would turn out this way. Actually, he was really innocent in all of this. It had been those two shrews who had made trouble in the first place, and that was why he had told his clansmen to stand up for Yuanchu. He never thought that he would crash into a hard wall like Ling Han.

"Zi Feng, apologize to Young Master Han!" he said to the green-robed man, forcing down the flames of rage burning in his heart.

The green-robed man felt an indescribable fury fill his whole body. His hands were tightly curled into fists. He really wanted to give Ling Han a thrashing of his own, but when he saw the threatening look Wu Qian Feng was directing at him, he could not help but lower his head, and forced out through gritted teeth, "I was wrong. Please forgive me, Young Master Han."

Ling Han smiled faintly and calmly accepted the apology. He did not have much of a good impression of the Wu Clan. There was a Wu Bo among their ranks that he was definitely going to kill off one day.

"Grandmaster Yuanchu, about that Clashing Yang Pill..." Wu Qian Feng said to Yuanchu submissively.

"Heng, after such a thing has happened, you still want me to help you concoct the Clashing Yang Pill?" Yuanchu glared, refusing without any slight bit of hesitation.

There was a layer of cold sweat on Wu Qian Feng's forehead as he said, "Grandmaster Yuanchu, you can't go back on your word!"

"I don't want to concoct alchemical pills for your Wu Clan. So

what?" Yuanchu said shamelessly.

"You!" Wu Qian Feng pointed a trembling finger at Yuanchu, but could not say anything else. Yuanchu was in Spiritual Ocean Tier like him, and merely due to his status as a Black Grade middle level alchemist, he dared not say any threatening words.

Ling Han's eyes swept over him, and could not help but feel a slight shock. He asked, "Old Wu, why do you need to concoct the Clashing Yang Pill?"

Old, Old Wu?

Wu Qian Feng almost rushed over to slap him. He was an elite warrior in Spiritual Ocean Tier and was more than old enough to become Ling Han's grandfather. Yet Ling Han actually addressed him as Old Wu; how could he tolerate such humiliation?

However, in Ling Han's eyes, for a martial artist of merely Spiritual Ocean Tier and an old man in his sixties, he had given him enough face by not calling him Little Wu.

"Young Master Han, one of his legs is suspected to have been bitten by an extremely poisonous snake. Thus, he needs the Clashing Yang Pill to heal his poison," Yuanchu immediately explained.

Ling Han looked over and saw that Wu Qian Feng's left leg was obviously much thicker than his right leg. He was very curious, and said, "Pull up your pant leg and show me."

Wu Qian Feng immediately looked displeased. Are you commanding me?

Meanwhile, Yuanchu said calmly, "Young Master Han's alchemy skills is above even mine. It would be extremely tough for me to concoct this Clashing Yang Pill, but for Young Master Han... it would be a piece of cake!"

"Young Master Han, please take a look!" Wu Qian Feng did not say another word and immediately pulled up his pant leg.

The speed at which he changed his attitude was enough to make everyone dumbstruck. They also felt like they were going to faint. So an elite of Spiritual Ocean Tier and a member of one of the Eight Great Clans could act so shamelessly too.

A very strange smell wafted out. It smelt a bit like iron, and upon a closer look, Wu Qian Feng's left leg was not only very swollen, it was also as black as ink. From the looks of it, it definitely looked like he had been poisoned by some strange venom.

Ling Han pressed lightly with a finger on Wu Qian Feng's thigh, and asked, "Do you still remember how you were bitten?"

"I was exploring an ancient tomb when I found something black. Just when I was about to pick it up to take a closer look, it suddenly shot forwards and bit my leg. After that, it completely vanished," Wu Qian Feng answered.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "I can help you solve your problem."

"R-really?" Wu Qian Feng was instantly excited.

"Since Young Master Han has said so, how could it be that he would lie to you!" Yuanchu immediately humphed in displeasure.

"Hehe, I was just excited. Please bear with me, Young Master Han!" Wu Qian Feng said with a smile full of flattery. There was not a single hint of his earlier pride in his current demeanor.

Chapter 171: Treatment

Ling Han did not take it to heart. There was a flash of delight in his eyes that no one else noticed.

It was not a snake that had bitten Wu Qian Feng, but a treasure.

Of course, he could not confirm it yet. However, he was quite sure that it was the case.

"Come, change your position and lay your leg down flat," Ling Han instructed.

Wu Qian Feng quickly sat down and laid his leg down on another chair. He then looked at Ling Han anxiously.

There was no way that a great alchemist like Yuanchu would make empty boasts. Thus, when he said that Ling Han's alchemy skills were even above his, then that had to be the truth—even if that was a very astonishing fact that he really couldn't believe.

Everyone else now had become minor characters as they all directed their stares at Ling Han, an unbelievably young man with unbelievable skills.

Ling Han did not feel uncomfortable at all. In his last life, he was already long used to becoming the focus of everyone's attention. What he wanted now was to confirm the idea he had in his mind. He stretched out a hand and tapped repeatedly on Wu Qian Feng's leg. After every few taps, he would stop and observe for a moment.

After a moment, a confident smile came over his face as he said, "Old Wu, I'm going to start the treatment now. However, it will be very painful!"

"Please don't worry, Young Master Han. I am a practitioner of martial arts, so what hardships have I not experienced before? Please do as you like, Young Master Han. I can-ah!" Wu Qian Feng was just getting impassioned talking about his pain tolerance when all of a sudden, he let out an agonized yell.

A powerful crimson flame suddenly appeared on Ling Han's palm that transformed into a sharp point that was currently burning Wu Qian Feng's skin.

Yuanchu was watching from the side, and sighed ruefully, "Young Master Han is indeed extremely fortunate to be able to fuse with a Strange Fire. I am about to die from envy!" In front of Ling Han, there was naturally no need for him to act all high and mighty.

Strange Fire!

When the others heard this, the majority of them were confused. Only Wu Qian Feng looked astonished. He naturally knew what Strange Fire was. This thing was extremely rare, and by itself, it possessed great power. But to actually refine it?

Sorry, even the current Rain Emperor may not be able to accomplish such an extraordinary feat. Perhaps only that mysterious old monster from the Qi Clan would be able to subdue a Strange Fire.

Ling Han was only in Element Gathering Tier. How had he managed such a feat?

Wu Qian Feng definitely did not believe that Ling Han had managed to fuse with a Strange Fire all on his own ability. Then it was very simple. It must have been the master behind Ling Han or his clan that had helped him to fuse with a Strange Fire. A party that could retrieve a Strange Fire and allow one of their juniors to fuse with it... How abominably generous was that?

As his thoughts turned in this direction, Wu Qian Feng could not help but feel gratitude towards Yuanchu. The matter just now had become too serious. Putting aside the problem of his treatment, merely Ling Han's terrifying background was not something that the Wu Clan would be able to stand against.

"Ah!" His thoughts flashed through his mind, and he once again

released a horrible scream. Just now, he had been distracted and had managed to momentarily forget the agonizing pain. But now, the pain made a comeback, driving him practically crazy enough that he wanted to beat someone up.

"Hiss!"

The people surrounding them all revealed expressions of utter shock, because they actually saw one vein after another all reveal themselves on Wu Qian Feng's leg. Upon a closer look, these veins were actually continuously twisting around as if they were a group of very slender snakes.

Ling Han gave a humph. His fingers continuously touched, pressed and pushed. With the burning of the flames, these slender snakes kept retreating and finally converged around the ankle.

Wu Qian Feng's thigh was visibly regaining the color of normal skin at a detectable speed. As the black color continuously moved downwards, it became darker and darker, as if it was about to turn solid and gush out of his leg.

It was really very strange.

However, Wu Qian Feng looked elated at this. Even if he was an idiot, he could tell that Ling Han did have his ways, and was slowly forcing the "poison" in his body to accumulate in his foot.

But it was... really painful! Very painful! Extremely painful!

As a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, Wu Qian Feng still had a very high pain tolerance. By now, he could already force himself not to let out any moans of pain. However, layer after layer of cold sweat appeared on his skin, and both his legs were endlessly quivering.

By this point, all the black color had converged into the sole of his foot.

Ling Han drew his sword, and said, "Old Wu, I have now forced all the 'poison' into your left foot. Everything would be all right after I amputate your foot. Is that fine?"

‘Fine your sister! This is one of my feet we're talking about here!’

Wu Qian Feng mocked internally. However, he had visited many doctors previously, and they had all advised him to amputate his whole left leg to be able to preserve his life. In comparison, merely cutting off his left foot was already a much better bargain.

After all, his life was important, and it would only become more and more troublesome if he continued to drag it out.

"Young, Young Master Han, please do it," Wu Qian Feng said, gritting his teeth.

Ling Han drew his sword, and shua , a cold flash passed. Immediately, black-colored blood sprayed out.

He did not cut off Wu Qian Feng's foot, but merely made an incision in the sole of his foot to let out blood. With the continuous urging of the Strange Fire, black blood gushed out endlessly.

‘Here it comes!’

Ling Han's eyes suddenly lit up. He quickly dropped his sword and stretched out a hand towards the fountain of black blood. Then, he immediately drew back his hand. No one noticed that there was an additional something in his hand, because he had immediately stored the item into the Spatial Ring.

The black blood was continuously forced out, and very quickly, Wu Qian Feng's left leg had completely returned to normal. However, it still looked a bit pale. After all, Wu Qian Feng had lost a lot of blood.

"It's done," Ling Han said.

Wu Qian Feng sensed for a moment, and an expression of uncontrollable elation appeared on his face. He hurriedly stood and raised his clasped hands in Ling Han's direction and said, "Many thanks, Young Master Han! Many thanks, Young Master Han!" This venom had troubled him for many years. There was no hint of recovery even after he had taken many different types of

medicine that were supposed to heal poison. Every day, he had to use his Origin Power to suppress the poison. If not, the poison would make its way upwards and absorb his blood.

If it was not because of this poison, he would not still be in the seventh layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier now. Instead, he would have managed to reach the ninth layer, with a high chance to break through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

If the Clashing Yang Pill still had no effects, he was indeed preparing to give up his left leg. After all, a living man who had lost a leg was still much better than a dead man who had all his limbs.

He had never thought that Ling Han would so easily manage to solve a problem that had troubled him for almost ten years.

Amazing!

"Cover up that hairy leg of yours. Do you think it looks very nice?" Ling Han said disdainfully. By now, Wu Qian Feng's leg was scorched black in some places, and those places that were not burnt were covered with body hair. It was indeed a disgusting sight.

"Yes! Yes!" Wu Qian Feng was currently very elated, so he ignored Ling Han's extremely rude tone.

"All right. You may go now!" Ling Han flicked his hand, and issued the command for them to leave.

"Yes!" Wu Qian Feng quickly raised his clasped hands in farewell. As he continuously made his apologies to the members of the Jiang Clan, he picked up the three juniors of his Clan. Since the poison was now cured, he naturally did not need to beg Yuanchu for any favors. Thus, he directly returned home.

"You return too," Ling Han said to Yuanchu.

"Yes, Young Master Han." At first, Yuanchu was planning to flatter him a bit more, but when he recalled that Ling Han was

currently staying in the Imperial City and would definitely come over to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion frequently, he did not continue to bother him and took his leave.

Now that the outsiders were gone, the members of the Jiang Clan all looked at Ling Han with reverence.

Ling Han smiled, and asked, "What is it? Do you not know me anymore?"

"I do indeed feel like I don't know you anymore," Jin Wuji said with a bitter smile. "Even Grandmaster Yuanchu and Master Wu had to show you utmost respect. I am really at a loss what to do. How about if I call you Young Master Han as well?"

"Go to hell!" Ling Han laughed loudly. "Do you not take me as a friend?"

All of a sudden, Jin Wuji felt a warmth spread out in his heart.

Chapter 172: Blood Sucking Origin Gold

Becoming friends with Ling Han before and later... the significance of the two scenarios were completely different.

Even a Black Grade middle level alchemist had to address Ling Han respectfully as Young Master Han. What an honor it was to be able to become Ling Han's friend!

Jiang Fei Yan's parents and Jiang Fei Yan herself were all extraordinarily delighted by his words. Meanwhile, Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt both shamelessly approached Ling Han. Eldest Aunt said, "Young Master Han, my Hua Lian and Yuan'er are both good boys. They will definitely be able to become good friends with Young Master Han."

"That's right, that's right. You can all become good friends," Youngest Aunt hurriedly continued.

They were really without any sense of shame.

Ling Han asked calmly, "Do I know you?"

Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt were instantly struck speechless by his question. If it was just a moment ago, they would definitely have bared their fangs and brandished their claws. Yet now, they dared not say even one word. Instead, they continued to signal at Jiang Fei Yan with their eyes, hoping that she could speak up on their behalf.

If their sons could become good friends with Ling Han, then wouldn't that mean that they would be able to do as they liked in this Imperial City?

"You all can get lost now!" Ling Han said impatiently.

How could Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt give up as easily as that? They simply pretended that they had not heard him, and planned to continue pestering Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled coldly, and said, "Or do you want me to invite Wu Qian Feng and Yuanchu back to call an account to your old debts?" Sparing them once was already him giving face to Jin Wuji. If not, he would have given them both a well-deserved slap long ago.

Hearing his threat, Eldest Aunt and Youngest Aunt could only reluctantly leave with their sons in tow.

Ling Han retook his seat and continued to drink with Jin Wuji and the rest for a while before taking his leave. Firstly, the atmosphere was not too comfortable. His status had all of a sudden shot up to such formidable heights that it caused Jin Wuji and the others to behave very reservedly in his company. Secondly, he was also in a rush to return and study the item that he had gotten from Wu Qian Feng.

With Hu Niu in tow, Ling Han very quickly returned to the Academy. Faced with a challenging look from Liu Ru Er, he closed the door to his room. With a single thought from him, an item immediately appeared from within the Spatial Ring.

It was a very black thing, thin and long. Once it appeared, it actually moved a little before quickly shooting towards Ling Han, as if it was an arrow shot from a bow.

The thing was extremely fast, so fast that even Wu Qian Feng could not defend himself against it, causing him to stagnate at the current cultivation level for a period of ten years. This more than showed how fast it could be. Even an elite warrior of the seventh layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier was not spared, what more Ling Han who was merely in the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier?

Xiu , the thing had already shot to Ling Han's waist, and was actually about to penetrate his body through his waist.

"Heng!" Ling Han's face turned cold, and suddenly, a burst of crimson flame erupted from his waist. "How dare you. Since I had the ability to force you out, how could it be possible that I would be

afraid of you?"

The thing continued to shoot in various directions, still intending to create a hole on Ling Han's body to allow it to enter his body. However, its attempts were repeatedly blocked by the Strange Fire, and it was finally captured by Ling Han once again. Hong, the Strange Fire came forth and began burning the thing.

The thing continued to twist around and struggle. It actually transformed from its initial long, thin shape to the shape of a block, then transformed into the form of a sword, then a saber, and so on. It was an amazing sight.

"So it is indeed Blood Sucking Origin Gold." Ling Han smiled.

The Blood Sucking Origin Gold was not a demonic beast nor any kind of living organism. In fact, it was a unique kind of metal. However, this metal was extremely strange because it loved to suck and devour blood, as if it had a life of its own. Not even Ling Han possessed a detailed knowledge of this thing.

But, someone had once guessed before that when this strange metal absorbed a sufficient amount of blood strong enough, it might be able to open the door to life and become a completely new life form.

And the greatest advantage of this metal was that it could freely change its form. Once it was forged into a weapon, the weapon would be able to change into uncountable forms! In Ling Han's last life, the Slashing Sun Saber, the weapon of one of the seven ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier, the Setting Sun Saber Emperor, was forged precisely from this Blood Sucking Origin Gold. In battle, the treasured saber would be able to continuously absorb the blood of powerful warriors to endlessly increase its power. It was practically able to compare to the might of an ultimate warrior of Heaven Tier on its own. That was how terrifying it could be.

However, this block of Blood Sucking Origin Gold was much too small to forge it into a weapon. Still, there would be no problems

in using it to make a key.

Since it could freely change its shape, that meant that it would be able to become a key that could open any lock in this world.

That wasn't awesome enough?

In his last life, Ling Han had only seen the Blood Sucking Origin Gold in the hands of the Setting Sun Saber Emperor, but when he'd heard Wu Qian Feng's story, he deduced the identity of the 'snake'. Otherwise, how could he have treated the ailment of a member of the Wu Clan without any reason?

Thankfully, he was not disappointed.

"Yayaya!" The Strange Fire sent a blurry thought to Ling Han. It actually wanted to continue melting this block of metal. Ling Han could somewhat sense that the Strange Fire felt disdain towards the Blood Sucking Origin Gold.

It was really strange.

Once it was melted, would the Strange Fire be able to gain the transformation trait of the Blood Sucking Origin Gold? But if he did not melt it down, the thing would not listen to him at all. Its bloodthirsty 'nature' was overwhelming. It was appropriate to forge a weapon from it, but it was definitely not recommended to forge it into a key.

Burn and melt it down... he'll just have to see if that would be able to erase its bloodthirsty 'nature'.

Ling Han made his decision and allowed the Strange Fire to continuously refine this block of Blood Sucking Origin Gold.

However, since the Blood Sucking Origin Gold could gain the favor of the Setting Sun Saber Emperor who used it to forge his own weapon, it did indeed have a very high tolerance against heat. It only became slightly red under the furious burning of the Strange Fire, but did not melt at all.

If it was not for the fact that Fire was strong against Metal, Ling Han probably would not be able to do anything to it.

Then he'd just have to slowly melt it down. He did not believe that he would be unable to subdue a block of metal.

Ling Han sat down in a cross-legged position and stimulated the Origin Power in his body, transforming it into heat that helped in the refining process of the Blood Sucking Origin Gold.

Slowly, this block of unique metal began to become softer and softer, and gradually looked like it would be turning into liquid.

That Slashing Sun Saber of the Setting Sun Saber Emperor was far above this level. That treasured saber was practically invincible against all external damage. Even the Sword Emperor who had learnt Sword Heart and claimed to be able to slice the heavens and the earth apart with a single wave of his sword could not break it in half. That proved how extraordinary a substance it was.

The reason for this should be because the Blood Sucking Origin Gold had the ability to grow. It would be able to become stronger through the continuous absorption of blood. Currently, this block of Blood Sucking Origin Gold had not absorbed too much blood. As a result, it could not do anything against even a martial artist of the seventh layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier. A whole ten years, and it still had not managed to completely absorb the blood of its victim, which was proof enough of its weakness.

Otherwise, if it was that Slashing Sun Saber of the Setting Sun Saber Emperor, then Ling Han would definitely have turned and fled in the opposite direction. How could he stand against that demonic thing with his current ability?

The block of metal continued to change shapes, and had even transformed into the shape of a tiny human being that roared silently. This would cause anyone to suspect if it was actually a metal that had a life of its own. However, living organisms could not be stored into the Spatial Ring, so it was confirmed that the

Blood Sucking Origin Gold was an inanimate object.

Anyways, it was just very strange.

After melting it down for a whole day and night, the block of Blood Sucking Origin Gold finally became a pool of liquid and no longer changed forms.

Ling Han's face turned serious, and he began to extend his divine sense into the Blood Sucking Origin Gold.

To make the Blood Sucking Origin Gold take a form of his choosing, he would have to use his divine sense to penetrate into it. It was equivalent to smelting and forging the Blood Sucking Origin Gold like it was a Spirit Weapon.

Weng , Ling Han's divine sense suddenly entered into a world of complete darkness. The furious sounds of battle roared in his ears. As the sight in front of him became lighter, he saw uncountable people all attacking a giant in front of him.

The giant stood firm and sturdy, and there was a metallic sheen all over its body. It was extremely hard, because even with the combined attacks of a few thousand people, there only appeared slight depressions on its body, which immediately turned back to normal. It was as if the depressions were made by fingers lightly pressing down on its body.

Ling Han was shocked—the body of this giant was completely made from the Blood Sucking Origin Gold!

Chapter 173: A State of Enlightenment

Even with the might the Setting Sun Saber Emperor had, he had only managed to obtain a block of Blood Sucking Origin Gold that was about the size of a human head—he had forged it into his famous weapon, the Slashing Sun Saber, on which he relied to become the third strongest existence among the seven ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier.

But there actually appeared a firm and sturdy giant here that was completely made from the Blood Sucking Origin Gold. Wasn't that a terrifying fact?

Ling Han had guessed before that once this Blood Sucking Origin Gold had managed to absorb enough blood, it would be able to transform into a living being, but he had never imagined that there would appear such a terrifying giant.

There were millions of martial artists ganging up on this giant of Blood Sucking Origin Gold. Their combined attacks shot towards it like they were shooting stars and continuously blasted against the body of the giant. But, there were very few attacks that could actually break through its defenses. Even those few attacks that managed to get through its defenses only managed to leave behind light marks on its body.

However, the counterattack of the giant of Origin Gold was really too horrifying. It only opened its mouth and would be able to swallow down a large number of martial artists. It then closed its mouth, and a crisp kacha, kacha was heard. It had actually swallowed the human martial artists whole.

Since these martial artists could soar in the skies, they had definitely reached at least the level of Flower Blossoming Tier, and based on Ling Han's observation, some of them were even above this level and could match him in ability in his last life. A few of these powerful martial artists were even above his level in his last

life!

Shattering Void Tier?

It was at this moment that the images came to a sudden stop. Ling Han's vision changed and he had once again returned to his own room.

That flash of images previously should have been the remaining pieces of memory remaining in this block of Blood Sucking Origin Gold. However, because it was just a shattered piece, there was only a short flash of images.

Ling Han could not help but engage in deduction. The giant of Origin Gold was finally defeated and shattered by the combined attacks of uncountable powerful warriors, and now its pieces were scattered all over the world. The Blood Sucking Origin Gold was filled with the ability to absorb blood... could it be that the giant was planning on making a comeback?

Though he had only witnessed a short flash of memories, when he recalled that the giant of Blood Sucking Origin Gold was something that could attract so many martial artists to work together and attack it, that was definitely proof of its unbelievable might and power. There were even a few ultimate warriors of Shattering Void Tier mixed in the fray.

If this thing could still come back to life... then who in this world would be able to stop it? That would definitely be a scene of total death and carnage.

However, this should have happened in an ancient historical time. Merely from the scene that Ling Han had witnessed, there were hundreds of elite warriors in Heaven Tier, and there were no less than five ultimate warriors of Shattering Void Tier.

How the world of martial arts must have prospered then!

Hold on, Jiang Yue Feng and at least about a hundred of elite warriors of Heaven Tier had also battled an ultimate warrior of

Shattering Void Tier to death. That was not far from his current time period. It was as if the field of martial arts suddenly experienced a boom, and all of a sudden, many people managed to break through to Heaven Tier.

Ling Han was even more curious, and wanted to know about what had actually happened in that period of history. However, Rain Country had only been established for a few thousand years, and before that, it seemed as if there was a blank space in history. No one knew how the world was like before that.

Looks like he would have to leave Rain Country and step into the wider world to be able to find out what had happened during that unknown period of history.

Ling Han gathered his scattered thoughts. It was pointless to ponder further about it. What could his current cultivation level of merely the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier do? If there was really any kind of major catastrophe, there would be someone else stronger stepping up to the fore.

Rain Country was only a small place, so the strongest existence here was only in Flower Blossoming Tier. Who knows, when he left this place, it may not be a strange thing for him to hear of people who had actually reached the level of Shattering Void Tier.

The world changed and the field of martial arts was also constantly changing. There were times of prosperity, and there were also times of decline.

A mental command from him, and the Blood Sucking Origin Gold instantly transformed into various shapes with the stimulation of his mental commands. It could transform into metallic threads that were as thin as a spider's thread; it could also transform into metallic sheets that were thinner than even paper. It could also transform into the shape of a pig, goat, chicken, dog, and various other animals, though they were all tiny in size.

Moreover, through the refining process of the Strange Fire, the

Blood Sucking Origin Gold had become even tougher and more durable. Even elites of Spiritual Pedestal Tier would probably find it difficult to tear it apart. If he actually managed to coil it around the neck and give it a tug in a surprise attack, then even elite warriors of Spiritual Pedestal Tier may die.

He formed the Blood Sucking Origin Gold into the shape of a bangle and placed it on his left wrist. When he came out of his room, Hu Niu instantly clung onto him and rubbed her little head on his chest, and said, "Mean! Ling Han mean!"

"How am I mean?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

"You don't play with Niu!" The little girl pouted.

Ling Han could not help but laugh, and said, "All right, all right. Then I'll just have to play with you for a while, all right?"

The 'play' that Hu Niu was saying was actually wrestling. It must have been taught by her "Mother Tiger" when she had still been in the tiger's den. Every move and stance, every attack and retreat were all signature moves of a tiger on the hunt for its prey.

However, Hu Niu possessed a terrifying comprehension ability in martial arts, and managed to adapt the moves that were not suitable to be used by human beings to her own use. The little girl was like a little tiger. She would pounce, smack, bite, and throw. Every move possessed a terrifying power behind it.

Ling Han could not help but watch in captivation. There was no limit and restriction to the form of martial arts in the first place. Who had decided that a beast could not become a master and teach one martial arts? On the other hand, the Ape's Arm Fists, Tiger Form Palms, and others... weren't they all martial arts techniques that had been invented based on their ancestors' observation of the attacks of other animals?

All of a sudden, his thoughts spread out, and his mindset was freed to a far-reaching world.

He had entered a state of enlightenment.

Enlightenment was a special condition that martial artists desperately desired to experience. Under this condition, they could possibly comprehend certain dilemmas of martial arts that they normally would not have been able to comprehend, and their level of martial arts may soar.

However, this condition could only be encountered by chance, and not brought about consciously. According to deduction, it required the consciousness of a martial artist to be coordinated with the heavens and earth, so it was extremely mysterious.

If a martial artist managed to enter the state of enlightenment once in his lifetime, that would be enough for him to thank the gods for this gift. Moreover, it would normally happen after one had reached Flower Blossoming Tier, because only those who had cast off their mortal bodies would be qualified to achieve unity with the Dao of Heaven and Earth.

In his last life, Ling Han had experienced enlightenment three times in total, but he had only managed to experience breakthroughs in alchemy. And the first time he experienced it was when he was in Spiritual Ocean Tier. At that time, he was unbearably shocked, but he had never thought that it would appear even earlier in this lifetime.

The surrounding Spiritual Qi all around him converged upon him, as if it had turned into multiple dragons that were furiously squeezing into his body.

His cultivation level immediately began to spike: from the middle period of the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier to the late period, and then to the peak period. He did not have any problems with comprehension of his cultivation level at all. He merely experienced a slight pause and the door to the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier was open to him.

Breaking through was that easy for him.

Ling Han had not noticed at all. His heart and spirit were soaring in the world of martial arts. Every single bit of comprehension bloomed in front of him as if they were flowers. But when he reached out his hand to capture them, they immediately shattered into shadows.

Illusion flowers flying in the air, or so he has heard.

In the air, there were also multiple flashes of mysterious essences of martial arts flying past like they were shooting stars. Yet these were even harder to catch hold of.

These were the Dao of nature, and were not something that the current Ling Han would be able to comprehend at all. If it was not for the fact that he had the support of his status as an elite warrior of Heaven Tier from his last life, he would only be at a complete loss in this world of martial arts. Yet now, he had managed to catch a glimpse of the mysteries of martial arts.

From the early period of the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier to the middle period, to the late period, to the peak period. He used a mere few hours to accumulate the energy that he would have needed to accumulate over quite a considerable number of days. He did not even need to take any alchemical pills at all; it was as if the heavens had directly contributed to his advancement.

As the saying goes, once you understood Dao, you would be granted salvation.

Of course, Ling Han was still very far from reaching this level, but his advancement was more than enough to attract the jealousy of others.

Hong , his body gave a slight tremble and he had stepped into the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier.

Ling Han's eyes suddenly snapped open. At first, he looked slightly confused, but then came back to reality. He could not help but smile. He turned around to see that Hu Niu was seated by his

side, imitating his posture, as if she was also cultivating. There was actually a sliver of seriousness on her little face.

Peng, peng, peng. It was at this moment that a hurried knocking was heard from the door.

Chapter 174: Feng Luo's Act of Violence

Ling Han went over to open the door and saw that it was Zhu Xue Yi at the door. She was currently in a great state of anxiety and panic.

"Big Brother Ling!" Zhu Xue Yi immediately greeted, as if she had finally managed to gain a pillar of support the moment her eyes set upon Ling Han. Instantly, her worried demeanor relaxed considerably.

"What's happened?" Ling Han asked.

"The Academy expelled Li Hao!" Zhu Xue Yi said furiously.

"What!?" Ling Han frowned. "Has he committed some crime?"

"No." Zhu Xue Yi shook her head, and forced out through gritted teeth, "It's Feng Luo! He brought with him a teacher of the Academy, and expelled Li Hao from the Academy for no reason at all! He even said, said that it was because Li Hao was a friend of Big Brother Ling."

Instantly, Ling Han's eyes became as sharp as swords, as rage slowly rose in his heart.

"Feng Luo is really out of control. He had his lackeys injure Li Hao and force him to lower his head, and the teacher from the Academy actually pretended he had not seen anything at all! When I saw things were getting worse, I immediately rushed over to you and hope that you can uphold the justice for Li Hao!" Zhu Xue Yi said, crying.

If he was really expelled from the Academy, then Li Hao would never be able to hold his head high again when he returned. Moreover, his future prospects would become extremely limited.

Ling Han revealed a strong fury in his demeanor. He had already expected that Feng Yan and his brother would seek him out for revenge, and he did not have any fear. As a martial artist, how

could it be possible if he would not offend a few people in his lifetime?

Yet Feng Luo actually targeted his friends. That was too shameless!

Whatever the enmity, family members should never be dragged into the matter. That was the unwritten rule of martial artists. Unless it was some kind of life or death enmity that could not be dissolved—only then would one actually make the move to eliminate the whole clan of his foe, or even include anyone else that had the slightest bit of relation to him. The enmity between him and Feng Luo, at best, was only a minor conflict.

"Bring me to them!" Ling Han said darkly.

Zhu Xue Yi was delighted, and hurriedly brought Ling Han with her to Li Hao's quarters. She had seen how the Third Imperial Prince and his guests had treated Ling Han at the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, so she believed that if Ling Han were to act, then things could still be redeemed.

The two of them were in a rush, so very quickly, they arrived at the students' hostel. This was where the Ordinary Disciples lived. Unlike True Disciples, who had a courtyard to themselves, a few Ordinary Disciples would share a single courtyard, and the treatment was completely different.

Feng Luo had made a comeback and was unbearably arrogant, making no attempts to hide his actions at all. On the other hand, he wanted nothing more than to inform everyone in the Academy of it, to let them see how impressive and mighty he was now.

Thus, there was a large number of people watching the scene. Some were sympathetic, some were rejoicing in Li Hao's misfortune, while others were completely indifferent. Any circle would be able to show the multiple facets of human nature.

In the middle of the crowd, Li Hao was already covered with

injuries and lying on the ground. Feng Luo had one foot firmly stepping on Li Hao's face, and Li Hao's fingers were visibly entrenched deeply into the ground beneath him. It was obvious to the rest how furious he was at this moment.

Ling Han's eyes were like swords of ice. As he strode forwards, those around seem to be able to sense his current rage. They turned around and when they saw the icy expression on his face, they subconsciously retreated a few steps, and opened up a path for him to pass through.

This also included the few students who were in Gushing Spring Tier. They were both surprised and confused about how they could be scared off by a fellow student merely in Element Gathering Tier.

The crowd separated like flowing water and a direct path to the center of the crowd appeared.

Feng Luo immediately turned around and looked to find that it was Ling Han. A sliver of arrogance appeared on his face, he smiled cockily, and said, "Ling Han, did you see, I have returned!"

Ling Han did not say anything. He merely continued his advance without pause.

"Hahahaha, are you extremely displeased? So what if you are! I want you to be very displeased!" Feng Luo smirked coldly, and deliberately rubbed his foot on Li Hao's face a few times. "This is your friend? Then I'm really sorry. I did everything on purpose!"

Don't say that I didn't give him a chance," Feng Luo shrugged, and continued, "I told him that as long as he cut off all relations with you from now onwards, and announced all the evil acts and crimes you have committed in public, then I would let him off. Who knew that this brat would be so stubborn and so stupidly loyal that he was actually not willing to betray you!"

Ai, the kind of person I hate the most would be this kind of unreasonable idiot, so I could only thrash him until he will admit

the error of his ways!

Don't worry, there could not be so many idiots in this world. In future, I will go seek out Li Dong Yue, Jin Wuji and the others, and I believe that they would not be as stupid as this!"

Feng Luo paused, and when he saw the ice-cold expression on Ling Han's face, he felt great delight—the more humiliated Ling Han was, the happier he would be. In fact, he wanted nothing more than to give a few furious stomps on that face of his.

"What is it? Do you want to step on me?"

Unfortunately, you will not be able to! Just take a look, my brother had his four Great Guardian Deities come over to become my guards, and all of them are in Gushing Spring Tier. Forcing you into submission would be a piece of cake for them! Everyone here is the same. I can beat up anyone I don't like the look of, but none of them would dare to touch a single hair on my head!

Come and beat me up, you idiot! If you have the balls to, come thrash me!"

Feng Luo laughed loudly, obviously very pleased with himself. He did not have any reservations about entering into Mocking Everyone Mode.

At this, quite a few people looked furious. It was necessary for rules to be in place in order to restrict anyone's actions at any time. That way, there would be a limit to how far they would go. Yet Feng Luo actually broke these rules—he would be able to thrash anyone he liked. Who would be able to feel safe again?

Still, where did he get such overwhelming confidence from? One had to know that even the members of the Main Branch of the Eight Great Clans would not dare to say such words, and the Imperial Family of Rain Country would not say something like that either, as they were the ones who decided the rules, so how could they break their own rules so publicly?

What basis did Feng Luo have to say these words? One had to understand that not even Feng Yan was much of anything in the vicinity of the Imperial City, what more this kind of spoilt prodigal.

"Hehe, don't glare at me like that. I'm very scared!" Feng Luo deliberately made a fearful face, but he immediately glared and stomped harshly on Li Hao. "Damn, who do you think you are? You're just a lowly dog from Gray Cloud Town, and you still dare to abuse your power in front of me?"

Today, I will let you understand that opposing me was the most idiotic choice that you have made in this lifetime!

I want you to watch as your friend, because of his relationship with you, has his arm crippled by me, and become a cripple forever!"

After saying so coldly, his right hand holding a sword, his eyes fixed upon Li Hao's right arm, obviously intending to cripple this arm of Li Hao's. For a saber wielder, having the arm that wielded his saber crippled would mean that he would become an absolute cripple.

Everyone was shocked. This was the Hu Yang Academy, and there was obviously a teacher present here, yet Feng Luo actually dared to commit such a violent crime so publicly in front of everyone. Could it be that his Feng Clan had become the boss of the Academy?

"Hahahaha!" Feng Luo laughed loudly, raised his sword and lowered it in a slash.

"Li Hao!" Zhu Xue Yi screamed shrilly, grief-stricken. She was filled with anguish, and had already spat out a mouthful of blood in her emotional turmoil.

Xiu , it was at this moment that Ling Han moved swiftly, and his figure shot towards Feng Luo.

"Get lost!" Those four young men standing behind Feng Luo all made their own moves. Four hands attacked in unison, Origin Power rolled out in a powerful wave, and became four huge palms that aimed towards Ling Han.

They were four elites of Gushing Spring Tier—even though all of them were only in the first layer. However, Gushing Spring Tier would still be Gushing Spring Tier, and would be able to completely suppress an opponent who was merely in Element Gathering Tier, what more when there were four of them. Even if they had not used any kind of martial arts technique in their attacks, they were still incomparably powerful.

Chapter 175: Ling Han's Rage

A frosty aura emanated from Ling Han as he stepped forwards to parry the attacks of these four men.

Was he seeking death?

The combined attacks of four elites of Gushing Spring Tier caused someone who was merely in Element Gathering Tier to actually neither dodge or avoid, but step forwards to receive their attacks head-on. Where did he get such courage from?

Peng, peng, peng, peng . A series of blasts were heard and instantly, the expressions of the observers became utterly astonished!

They could only watch as four figures were flung outwards from a heavy impact, and who could these four figures be but the four Guardian Deities of Feng Yan?

Ling Han did not even pause, and had already arrived at a spot right above Feng Luo's head. Pa , and his foot was firmly stomped onto Feng Luo's head.

Tong !

A muffled sound was heard and Feng Luo's entire head was firmly pressed into the ground. He was forced to kneel on the ground while his arms were helplessly hanging by his sides and his bottom was raised high, as if it was a chrysanthemum flower about to blossom.

"Wa!" Ling Han's figure dropped down onto the ground, and suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood.

That was not because he had been injured by the four Guardian Deities. In fact, it was because he had injured himself when he had stepped out earlier on in order to stimulate the Lone Wolf's Blood. He had not had the chance to spit it out earlier on.

Dead silence filled the air.

A martial artist in Element Gathering Tier actually defeated four elites of Gushing Spring Tier—who could actually believe such a feat was possible? Who could accept such a reality? Though Ling Han had indeed suffered some injury and spat out blood, this could not in any way conceal his radiance.

That was too awesome, wasn't it?

Ling Han finally smiled calmly, and said, "Now that there is no longer a fly noisily buzzing around, the world has indeed become much more peaceful and quieter."

"Li Hao!" Zhu Xue Yi had covered her face earlier, as she could not bear to watch as Li Hao was crippled at Feng Luo's hands. But when she heard the astonished gasps of those around her, she opened her eyes and saw that not only was Li Hao not injured, even Feng Luo was subdued. She could not help but be overjoyed at the turn of events, and rushed over to him.

Ling Han helped Li Hao up, and said, "I've involved you in this matter."

"Aren't we friends?" Li Hao asked.

"Haha, friends, that's right, we're friends!" Ling Han clapped a hand on Li Hao's shoulder. In the past, he had only felt that he wanted to give a hand to Li Hao on his way to great accomplishment, but after the matter today, he had finally accepted Li Hao as a true friend.

For his friends, Ling Han could become completely crazy.

"Xue Yi, take care of Li Hao. I still have some debts to settle with somebody!" Ling Han said darkly. Li Hao had been horribly beaten up, and would at least need about a month to rest and recover from his injuries.

"Ling Han, do you know what you are doing?" the four Guardian Deities all came towards him, speaking loudly, a powerful,

threatening air emanating from all of them.

They were only flung out of the battle by the impact, but had not suffered any injuries.

Ling Han's eyes swept over them, and said calmly, "You all should feel that you are very lucky that this is the Academy. That's why I will only cripple you, but will still leave you with your lives!"

"Insolence!" the four Guardian Deities all shouted in unison.

This brat was really too outrageously bold. One had to know that although they were flung out of battle with a single move, that was also because they had been too careless, and had underestimated Ling Han's ability. One only had to look at how they were completely unharmed, and would be able to know that they were indeed very powerful martial artists.

"Let go of Young Master Luo!" one of the Guardian Deities said. These four Guardian Deities had been named respectively as Tiger, Elephant, Panther, and Wolf, and the person who had spoken was the Elephant Guardian Deity.

"Oh, now that you mention it... I almost forgot." Ling Han smiled. He used a foot to kick at Feng Luo's bottom and said, "This is the master of you four dogs! Come, kneel down and greet your master!"

"What!" the four Guardian Deities glared furiously. He actually wanted them to kneel.

"What is it? Can't you even kneel down for the sake of your master?" Ling Han said calmly as he drew out his sword. "Then who knows, if I'm not happy, maybe I would slice off one of his arms in my displeasure."

The four Guardian Deities were all shocked. They had naturally not placed any importance on Feng Luo, but Feng Luo was still Feng Yan's brother. They had already received Feng Yan's command to protect and guard Feng Luo. If Feng Luo was crippled

right in front of their eyes, how could they be able to face Feng Yan again?

"Teacher Yang, this brat intends to commit violence in public. I would like to request Teacher Yang to step forwards to stop him!" the Wolf Guardian Deity said to the teacher who had been standing at one side and merely watching as things went on.

This Teacher Yang was also only in Gushing Spring Tier, but his status was different. The words of a teacher of Hu Yang Academy would naturally be worth more.

Teacher Yang was feeling extremely displeased. Previously, when Feng Luo took advantage of his position to kick Li Hao around and had completely ignored the rules of the Academy, he was already very displeased. However, he had received the command to cooperate with Feng Luo in every way he required before he had come, and so could only conceal his displeasure in his heart.

When he saw how Ling Han had stomped Feng Luo into the ground, he was actually very pleased, and had secretly praised Ling Han. Yet he never thought that Feng Luo and his accomplices were really too shameless. When it was them breaking the rules, they had pretended he was not present at all, and now that it was others breaking the same rules, they actually pushed him out into this matter.

He really did not want to involve himself in this matter, but when he recalled the command he had received earlier on, he could only sigh helplessly and said, "Ling Han, it is forbidden to injure others within the Academy grounds. Aren't you going to let go of him?"

When these words were spoken, everyone else instantly erupted in an uproar.

What did that mean? Just now, when Feng Luo was going to injure Li Hao grievously, why had he not said such words?

"Is this still the Academy?"

"No, no, no. Is this still the Hu Yang Academy of Rain Country? Why do I feel as if the Academy is now owned by the Feng Clan?"

"That's right. Even the Imperial Princes and Princesses have to follow the rules when they are in the Academy. Could it be that Feng Yan and Feng Luo are even above the Imperial Family of Rain Country in status?"

"Heh, I disagree!"

"Me too!"

They all began to shout loudly. It was Li Hao today, but it could be any of them tomorrow. When there was no restriction enforced on them by the rules, the consequences would be too widespread. Naturally, everyone felt fear and apprehension in face of such a reality.

Teacher Yang could not help but become speechless. He had been feeling guilty in the first place, and now, he naturally was unable to present a righteous front.

On one side, he had his orders, but on the other, he also had his own ethics to conform to. As his orders and ethics came into a conflict, he finally sighed and said, "I am not going to take control of this matter anymore!" He directly turned around and left, and was really not planning on getting involved in this issue anymore.

The four Guardian Deities were all ashen, and humphed at his actions.

"Ling Han, what do you want in order to release Young Master Luo?" the Elephant Guardian Deity asked.

Ling Han merely glanced at him, then said, "That's easy. He caused severe injuries to my friend, and even intended to slice off one of his arms. Then I will beat him half-dead, and slice off both his arms. That's all."

"You're going too far!" the Wolf Guardian Deity shouted furiously.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "I'm the type of person who will seek revenge for the smallest grievance. Anyone who breaks one of my fingers, I will break his arm in vengeance. I have only doubled the punishment this time round, so that is already pretty merciful of me!"

"You dare!" The four Guardian Deities all charged towards Ling Han at the same time. They wanted to create a storm of attacks that would make Ling Han not have the chance to make a move on Feng Luo. As long as they managed to rescue Feng Luo... Ling Han was only in Element Gathering Tier, so no matter how strange he was, how far could he go?

Ling Han's foot gave a flick, and Feng Luo immediately emerged from the ground. He picked Feng Luo up and waved him around as if he was a weapon to parry the attacks of the four Guardian Deities.

When he used this human weapon, the four Guardian Deities naturally dared not press their attack any further and quickly stepped back.

At this moment, a young man merely in Element Gathering Tier was seen to be greatly showing off his might, forcing four elites of Gushing Spring Tier to retreat pathetically, not daring to parry even a single attack.

"Despicable! Shameless!" the four Guardian Deities all shouted angrily.

Chapter 176: Definitely Crippling Him

When they saw how Ling Han acted like he was shooing away a flock of ducks, the spectators could not help but want to laugh. Wherever he stepped, the four Guardian Deities would disperse as if they were a flock of birds. The spectators were also secretly amazed at Ling Han's overwhelming courage to actually dare to oppose Feng Yan.

Feng Yan had now neatly become the King of the Academy.

First, when the Imperial Guards came to the Academy to apprehend him, they were forced to retreat in the face of Lian Guang Zu's tough attitude, and there was actually no sign of anger from the Imperial Family. In the end, the matter was simply settled peacefully. Next, Feng Luo, who had been expelled from the Academy, returned and even attempted to commit a violent crime right in public. Even a teacher of the Academy could only stand by and watch helplessly.

This was practically out of control and with completely zero regard for any rules. Not even a Core Disciple and the son of the Emperor like the Third Imperial Prince would dare to act so boldly, yet Feng Yan dared.

And now that someone who actually dared to oppose the Feng Clan appeared, how could they not all give him a thumbs up and praise him for his courage?

"Hahahaha!" The spectators all laughed loudly. They did not dare to so publicly oppose Feng Yan, but a little harmless laughter should be fine. He couldn't possibly hold a grudge over a little laughter, right?

The four Guardian Deities felt angry, enraged, and helpless all at once. In terms of ability, they were sure that they could completely suppress Ling Han, but he had a hostage in his hands, so they could only be cautious in their movements. There was no way for them

to put all their efforts in. They could only run around all over the place, and this made them feel unbearably sullen.

Ling Han did not treasure the "weapon" in his hands. He simply crashed, hit, threw and banged the "weapon" any which way he liked. Under such treatment, Feng Luo was actually awakened by the pains in his body.

"Ling! Han!" he screamed shrilly, an incomparable rage brimming in his tone.

How many times was this? That he had experienced a loss at Ling Han's hands?

"I want you to die! I want you to die!" he roared furiously. If he couldn't even vent his anger through an enraged roar, he would go crazy.

"Oh, you're awake?" Ling Han gave a cold, eerie smile, and simply tossed Feng Luo onto the ground. "That's good. I want you to watch how your two arms are sliced off!"

"Y-you dare!" Feng Luo was terrified.

"Why do I not dare?" Ling Han said calmly. "Just now, you wanted to slice off my friend's arm, and now I can't slice off your arm? Or is it that you think that I can't even compare to an idiot like you?"

"My brother would definitely not spare you!" Feng Luo caught onto the last sliver of hope for him—threatening Ling Han with his brother.

"You speak as if your brother would become my underling once I let you go." Ling Han shook his head, and waved his sword a bit. "Cherish the moment now and gaze for a moment longer at your two arms, as very quickly, you will be saying an eternal farewell to them."

"No! No! No!" Feng Luo was finally so terrified that he had started to cry with snot and tears. He did not want to become a handicap.

He was still young, and if he lost his arms, how would he be able to bully others or play with beautiful women in the future?

"Stop!" the four Guardian Deities all shouted in unison.

"No one would be able to save him!" Ling Han shook his head, his voice cold as ice.

"Oh, then what about me?" A voice filled with dignity rang out and Feng Yan appeared. He had his hands behind his back as if he were an Emperor, and was exuding an powerful aura of domination.

"Milord!" the four Guardian Deities all fell into a half-kneeling position, respectfully paying their greetings.

"Brother, save me! Save me!" Feng Luo was both surprised and delighted. In his eyes, there was nothing that Feng Yan could not do. As long as his brother was here, he would be saved.

"And who do you think you are?" Ling Han asked calmly. There was no hint of disdain in his tone, as if he was merely stating a very ordinary statement of truth.

Feng Yan could not help as killing intent rose within him, but when his eyes swept over Feng Luo, he said, "Let go of my brother, and I can spare you this one time."

"You speak as if you have some kind of special status." Ling Han snorted. "Since you two brothers are finally both here, then I can get started!" He raised his sword.

What, he had not acted before... because he was deliberately waiting for Feng Yan to appear?

This... this was really too arrogant of him, wasn't it? Deliberately waiting for Feng Yan to appear to make his move... was he trying to form a life-or-death enmity with Feng Yan?

...What the others did not know was that these two young men already had a life-or-death enmity between them. However, in

Feng Yan's eyes, he could very easily erase Ling Han's existence from this world, and did not take it seriously at all.

"Brother! Brother!" Feng Luo maniacally struggled and cried out, crying so much that his face was covered with snot and tears.

In the end, Feng Yan was moved, and said, "If you dare, then I will definitely kill you today!"

Both sides were similarly ruthless. One side wanted to slice off the arms of someone, while the other side declared loudly the intention to commit murder. It was as if neither of them took the rules of the Academy or the laws of Rain Country to heart.

"Idiot!" Ling Han said coldly, and his sword lowered swiftly in a strike.

"You are seeking death!" Feng Yan shot towards Ling Han. With his ability, he at least had a seventy percent chance of blocking Ling Han's sword strike successfully.

Xiu , he was indeed very fast, as if he was a furious arrow. Just when Ling Han's sword was about to fall onto Feng Luo's shoulder, Feng Yan's hand struck forwards as well. Origin Power rolled out and wrapped around his palm, making his whole arm turn white silver, brilliantly lit.

Ling Han humphed and flicked his left hand. Instantly, Strange Fire wrapped around his fist, which struck towards Feng Yan.

Immediately, Feng Yan's expression changed. He could sense that the flames wrapped around Ling Han's fist had the ability to threaten his life. Though this was only a feeling, he believed very strongly in his feelings, as they had helped him survive many dangers and hazards previously.

At this moment, he fully displayed his extraordinary prowess. He suddenly struck a fist onto the ground and unbelievably stopped in his advance due to the opposing force of the solid ground. Then he quickly stepped back in retreat.

Ling Han's fist could only hit empty air.

However, though Feng Yan could dodge and retreat, Feng Luo could not.

Pu , blood spilled and Feng Luo released a terrible scream. His right arm was completely sliced off.

He really sliced it off! He really did!

Everyone was shocked. The Feng Clan brothers were already more than out of control, but Ling Han was not the least bit inferior to them. He actually did slice off Feng Luo's arm with a strike of his sword.

"Ah! Ah!" The area was dead silent, except for Feng Luo's terrible screams of agony, resounding around.

Feng Yan's face turned completely ashen, and he said darkly, "You have successfully enraged me. Today, there is no other fate for you but death!"

"Yi, you're angry just with this?" Ling Han asked calmly. "I still have one arm left to slice!"

Hiss , this guy really planned to cripple both of Feng Yan's arms.

It was as if two solidified bursts of killing intent were suddenly shot from Feng Yan's eyes. When he looked at Ling Han, it was as if he wanted to stare a hole into him. He said, "If you dare to touch another hair on my brother's head, I will kill all your clansmen and everyone related to you!"

Shua , Ling Han's sword once again lowered, giving Feng Yan the most direct, as well as the most unyielding answer.

"F***!" Feng Yan could not stop himself from cursing. He once again shot forwards, but he dared not come too closely this time round. Instead, he punched a fist forwards, and his Origin Power suddenly solidified into a few tens of silver fists that transformed into a powerful barrage of blows heading in Ling Han's direction.

Black Grade low level martial arts technique, Torrential Fists!

The ability of an elite in the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier added together with the power upgrade of a Black Grade low level martial arts technique was definitely not something that a weaker martial artist of Gushing Spring Tier could stand against, no matter what kind of monster he was.

The fists would strike violently and randomly, as if they were drops of rain falling in a torrential rainstorm.

How could this be blocked?

Ling Han's right hand held onto his sword in a stance, but his left hand stretched open. A black-colored thing spread open, as if it was an umbrella, and when it was fully spread out, it transformed into a circular object very similar to a shield that completely protected Ling Han behind it.

Blood Sucking Origin Gold, an item that could transform according to his will!

Chapter 177: The Eldest Imperial Prince Has Arrived

Peng, peng, peng, peng. Feng Yan's fists crashed into the Blood Sucking Origin Gold and actually created flashes of silver light upon impact. That was the Origin Power of the fists being shattered and once again transforming back into Spiritual Qi.

With Feng Yan's current ability, he was not yet able to break through the shield of Blood Sucking Origin Gold, but he was indeed much more powerful than Ling Han. The extremely powerful impacts were like rolling waves that crashed into the shield repeatedly, forcing Ling Han to retreat uncontrollably again and again.

When he saw the blade of his sword was getting farther and farther away from Feng Luo's shoulder, Ling Han gave a cold humph, and six flashes of Sword Qi swept forwards at the same time. Pu , Feng Luo's left arm was also unable to escape from the fate of being sliced off.

"Ah!" Feng Luo had fainted from the agony of his right arm being sliced off, but this strike actually caused him enough pain to wake him from his unconscious state.

Ling Han quickly shot back in a retreat, and drew back his left hand. The Blood Sucking Origin Gold once again transformed back into a bangle that encircled his wrist. He looked a bit pale. After all, even with his Body of Dead Tree ability, suffering such a round of powerful attacks caused him to feel as if his body was boiling, so he was in a lot of pain.

The area was once again in dead silence.

Upon the first glance, Feng Yan was naturally at the advantage in their clash, being able to force Ling Han to retreat simply by punching a fist at empty air. However, Ling Han had still managed

to slice off Feng Luo's other arm with a single strike and retreat completely unscathed, so it also looked like it was his victory.

Awesome, he was really too awesome. Not just having power, but also courage.

Feng Yan's face was filled with a powerful killing intent that transformed into a solid state encircling around his body. His younger brother had both his arms crippled right in front of his eyes. This caused killing intent to blaze within him. He really had to kill Ling Han—he would definitely not let this matter go.

"Your previous actions have completely forfeited your own life," he said with a wooden, expressionless face. As he walked towards Ling Han, his right hand gave a wave and drew out the long saber from his waist. It was eerily cold like autumn waters, and was obviously an amazing weapon.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "You have already moved twice, and I'm still standing here completely unharmed. Your ability only goes so far!" Although that's what he said, he dared not underestimate Feng Yan in the slightest. After all, when he added together the different cultivation levels of both him and Feng Yan, they actually had a gap of seven whole layers!

"Today, no one will be able to save you!" Feng Yan declared coldly. Every step he took created a heavy sound, and it was as if his steps were falling on their hearts, making everyone feel very uncomfortable.

"Oh, has this Rain Country changed surnames to Feng?" A clear voice rang out, and a tall man walked over. He looked to be about thirty years old, and was quite handsome. He was dressed in a crimson embroidered robe, and walked with a majestic gait, possessing the aura of a king.

About a meter behind this man was a plain-looking middle-aged man, who followed his steps closely.

"Eldest Imperial Prince! It's the Eldest Imperial Prince!"

"Yi, why is the Eldest Imperial Prince suddenly here? Didn't he leave the Academy two years ago?"

"Coincidence?"

"Hehe, this is getting fun now. Feng Yan completely takes himself to be the boss of the Academy, but the Eldest Imperial Prince is the real owner here. Is this a sign that these two are about to come into conflict?"

"No matter how awesome Feng Yan is, he would not dare to oppose the Eldest Imperial Prince publicly, would he?"

"Not necessarily. Just take a look at Feng Luo's previous arrogant display and look at how Feng Yan wants to commit murder in broad daylight. They have obviously no regard for the Emperor's laws at all."

"Let's just wait and see."

The spectators all started murmuring their thoughts and ideas to each other. Now that things had come this far, it was already a bit out of control; even the Eldest Imperial Prince had come to involve himself in the matter.

"Feng Yan, why are you not paying your greetings when you see the Eldest Imperial Prince?" the middle-aged man behind the Eldest Imperial Prince rebuked coldly.

Feng Yan slightly hesitated for a moment, then raised his clasped hands in the Eldest Imperial Prince's direction and said, "Feng Yan hereby greets Your Imperial Highness, the Eldest Imperial Prince!"

How arrogant, he actually only raised his clasped hands in greeting.

The middle-aged man was about to speak up in reprimand again when he saw the Eldest Imperial Prince stretch out an arm, which forced the former to swallow whatever words he was about to say.

"Feng Yan, step back!" the Eldest Imperial Prince said.

"This man has crippled both my brother's arms and I'm going to take his life in return," Feng Yan said in a calm tone after regaining control over his emotions. However, although he spoke calmly, there was a determination that lay behind his words that said he would not be refused.

The Eldest Imperial Prince could not help but look displeased. With his status, in the whole Rain Country, aside from the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans of Rain Country, Lian Guang Zu, Wu Song Lin and the other rare few at the same level, who would dare to not give him face?

"Feng Yan, you have overstepped your bounds!" the Eldest Imperial Prince said coldly. Though he was not the Emperor yet, at a certain level, he could represent the Imperial Family. Any words he said had enormous weight behind them, so how could his words simply be refused like that?

"Heng, he crippled my brother, and I will take his life in exchange. Isn't this fair?" Feng Yan displayed his overbearing and unreasonable nature, actually not giving the slightest face to the Eldest Imperial Prince at all.

"Feng Yan, do you have any idea what you are doing now?" the Eldest Imperial Prince asked. He was also angered by now.

Any lands under the skies were all under Imperial authority, who would dare to disobey the words of the Emperor?

"I have long heard that the Eldest Imperial Prince was a Core Disciple of Hu Yang Academy in the previous generation, please allow this Feng Yan to experience your ability," Feng Yan said.

The area erupted in an uproar. Feng Yan actually pitted himself against the Eldest Imperial Prince!

Putting aside the Eldest Imperial Prince's status, when he left the Academy two years ago, he was a Core Disciple. Though he had yet

to break through to Spiritual Ocean Tier now, he was definitely in the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and added together with the Eldest Imperial Prince's talent in martial arts, he was practically invincible in the Gushing Spring Tier.

In the current Hu Yang Academy, the Third Imperial Prince was considered the most powerful student, but he was only in the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and even he would most likely lose against the Eldest Imperial Prince. Feng Yan was only a True Disciple, so where did he get the courage and confidence to think that he was worthy of opposing the Third Imperial Prince?

The Eldest Imperial Prince could not help but grow even angrier. This Feng Yan not only dared to disobey his commands, he even wanted to challenge him. He was indeed outrageously bold. However, as the Eldest Imperial Prince, he was a very subtle person and so would naturally not show any sign of his emotions on his face as he asked calmly, "You really want to challenge me?"

"Please!" Feng Yan said very decisively. The aura from his whole body came out in a wave, emanating a powerful might.

"Seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier!" The Eldest Imperial Prince could not help but look astonished. How had Feng Yan risen to such a formidable height in such a short period of time?

"What, seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier, really?"

"Since the Eldest Imperial Prince has said so, then it is most likely true."

"No wonder he actually dared to challenge the Eldest Imperial Prince; so he is in the seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier."

"That's not right. Even if he is in Spiritual Ocean Tier, so what? That's the Eldest Imperial Prince there!"

"That's true. I really don't know what backer Feng Yan has. Could it be he really is the illegitimate son of the Headmaster?"

All of the spectators were exclaiming in surprise. That was the

seventh layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and Feng Yan had actually caught up with the Third Imperial Prince... but when one took into account Feng Yan's young age, he could definitely be considered as the most talented and strongest genius of Rain Country.

"No wonder he dared to challenge me!" The Eldest Imperial Prince's expression darkened, and he said, "Then, make your move!"

Without any reservation, Feng Yan leaped forwards in the Eldest Imperial Prince's direction. He did not use his saber, but simply used his fists to create a barrage of attacks. There was a layer of silvery light wrapped around his fists, which exuded an unusually powerful aura.

"Using fists in front of me?" The Eldest Imperial Prince humphed and a cold light flashed through his eyes. He similarly attacked with his fists. It was as if an Emperor had arrived, which caused an irrepressible pounding to rise up in everyone's hearts. They all felt the urge to kneel down on the ground and declare themselves to be loyal subjects of the Eldest Imperial Prince.

Son of Heaven Fist Technique!

Peng, peng, peng, peng. The two of them clashed endlessly, and the Eldest Imperial Prince visibly had the upper hand.

His cultivation level was higher, he had greater power, and the Son of Heaven Fist Technique dominated over Feng Yan's own martial arts technique in terms of grade. If he was still unable to gain the advantage in the clash with all these factors in play, then it was really illogical.

Ling Han's eyes narrowed slightly, and when he looked upon the silvery light exuding from Feng Yan, he murmured to himself, "Special physical constitution?"

Chapter 178: Mirror Light Body

‘This had to be a special physical constitution,’ Ling Han said decisively in his mind. If it was not due to his special physical constitution, Feng Yan would have been blasted to pieces by the Eldest Imperial Prince by now. Though Feng Yan was at a disadvantage in their clash, he was still composed and calm. When he defended himself, he would also press forwards in attack, and every move contained a great explosive burst of power behind it.

What special physical constitution could that be?

Ling Han was observing very closely. The reason why special physical constitutions could be described as "special" was naturally because they had certain characteristics that made them special and unique. For example, Zhu Wu Jiu could recover from his wounds very rapidly, Hu Niu could transform whatever food she consumed into her own reserves of Origin Power, and he, with his acquired special physical constitution, could greatly increase his defenses, and like a dead tree, would feel nothing even when he suffered serious injury, not allowing the pain to affect him, and continue to display his battle prowess to the fullest.

So what special characteristic did Feng Yan have, then?

Hong, hong, hong. Feng Yan and the Eldest Imperial Prince endlessly clashed, and there was only brute force behind every fist, without any hint of technique. As the power behind their fists clashed against each other, the impact actually created a power wave that was visible to the naked eye, and this shockwave was spreading out in all directions, forcing the spectators to step back in retreat continuously.

‘Yi?’

Ling Han had noticed that Feng Yan's complexion was becoming more and more brightly white, and this was definitely not due to the use of Origin Power—it seemed more like that was the real

color of his complexion.

"Could it be... Mirror Light Body?" he mumbled. Though he was still dubious, it was almost confirmed for him.

The owner of Mirror Light Body had the ability to reflect any attacks he suffered, as if he himself was a mirror reflecting light. However, even a special physical constitution could be split up into different categories based on the purity of the bloodline. Thus, there were roughly three categories for Mirror Light Body. Weakest of all was the Bronze Mirror Body, which could only reflect about ten percent of every attack, and the next strongest was Silver Mirror Body, which could increase the rate of reflection to twenty percent, while the strongest, the Gold Mirror Body, could reflect about thirty percent of every attack.

Don't underestimate the ten to thirty percent of attack that could be reflected. It not only would decrease the power behind an opponent's attack, it could even become one's own power that could be aimed back at your opponent. In a simpler example, at first, it was ten points of attack power against ten points of attack power. Then, even if it had only become nine points against eleven points, the gap would have increased by twenty percent, what more when it was seven points against thirteen. That was practically a hundred percent gap in power.

From the looks of Feng Yan, he should have a Silver Mirror Body, and was able to reflect about twenty percent of the attacks; it was exactly this twenty percent of power reflected back that compensated for the difference of two layers in cultivation level behind Feng Yan and the Eldest Imperial Prince. As a result, though Feng Yan was still at an obvious disadvantage, he was not defeated.

‘That's not right!’ Ling Han shook his head. The twenty percent of power could possibly compensate for the difference in cultivation levels, but could not compensate for the inferiority of Feng Yan's martial arts technique as compared to the Eldest

Imperial Prince's Son of Heaven Fist Technique, which most likely should have reached Black Grade high level.

It was not that this fist technique was of a high grade by itself, but with the instillation of power of the nation, it could have might that could compare to a Black Grade high level martial arts technique.

Since Feng Yan was able to stand against the Son of Heaven Fist Technique with a mere Black Grade low level martial arts technique, then he must definitely have had some other ability. Otherwise, he would at least have to be on the same cultivation level as his opponent, and depend on the Mirror Light Body to compensate for the gap in their respective martial arts techniques.

What could it be?

Ling Han could not help but become curious.

The Eldest Imperial Prince's battle prowess was outstanding. Though he had been stuck on this ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier for quite some years, it had also allowed him to fortify his foundations on this cultivation level to an unbearably sturdy level. His current battle prowess should be worth about twelve Battle Stars.

And it was obvious that neither side had played their trump cards yet.

At least, both these young men had formed Qi, but neither of them had used it yet. If Qi was taken into consideration, then their battle prowess could obviously increase further.

The spectators were all watching dumbfounded. The Eldest Imperial Prince was in the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier and was a Core Disciple in his time, yet Feng Yan could actually manage to not fall in a clash with him. This guy was really too strong.

The Third Imperial Prince, Zhao Huan, Can Ye, the current

generation of Core Disciples, most likely were no longer able to match Feng Yan anymore, right?

Though they were on opposing sides, Ling Han could strongly agree that Feng Yan was indeed powerful. This guy was indeed a genius of martial arts, not only having mysterious means but also a terrifyingly strong understanding of battle, and as he continued to watch, he would often nod in approval.

Feng Yan just barely made the cut to being worthy enough to be trampled by him.

The Eldest Imperial Prince was like an Emperor, while Feng Yan was like a Demon God who freely displayed his domineering attitude, unreasonable and insolent. However, the two of them managed to keep their clash on even standing. In the condition when neither side was willing to play more of their trump cards, the battle had come to a deadlock.

"Stop!" An old voice rang out, though this voice held within it incomparable might.

Feng Yan and the Eldest Imperial Prince both stopped attacking, though they still looked at each other fiercely, their battle spirits still high, as if wanting to continue battling to their heart's content.

Lian Guang Zu appeared, and the aura of an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier spread out, causing everyone to feel as if there was a gigantic rock pressing down on their hearts. They could feel that their feet were strangely heavy and an urge to kneel down. He took one look at Ling Han, shook his head, and said, "Little fellow, you really know how to make trouble!"

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "Headmaster, it's not that I am really good at making trouble, but this blind fool actually came to look for trouble purposely with me. Thus, I could only slice him up a bit to give him a lesson. But I am still very merciful, and did not take his life."

He was a little curious. Previously, Lian Guang Zu was obviously very optimistic about his martial arts talent, and looked practically like he wanted to cultivate Ling Han like a disciple, yet there had suddenly been no news from him at all, and now there was obviously a drastic change in attitude from him.

"What a sharp mouth that is skilled at overturning facts. Do you think everyone is an idiot? You crippled my brother's arms, and this is already a breach of Academy regulations. According to the rules, you should be killed for your crime!" Feng Yan said darkly.

"Feng Yan, though I have just come here, and did not see the start and finish of this whole matter clearly, but it seems as if it was your brother who had threatened to slice someone else's arm first, right?" the Eldest Imperial Prince interrupted.

"Since you did not see clearly the start and the end of the matter, then shut up!" Feng Yan cast a cold glance at the Eldest Imperial Prince.

"Pu!"

Everyone was shocked speechless. Did Feng Yan actually reprimand the Eldest Imperial Prince? A younger member of a minor clan actually dared to openly reprimand the eldest son of the current Rain Emperor; what kind of outrageously bold act was that?

Immediately, the Eldest Imperial Prince's face turned ashen, and a powerful killing intent was brimming in his eyes. As the saying goes, when the Emperor goes into a rage, blood could flow over ten thousand miles. Though he was not the Emperor yet, as the Eldest Imperial Prince, he was still very powerful and mighty.

"You didn't see the start and the end of the matter either, so what are you blabbering so excitedly about!" Ling Han opened his mouth and said to Feng Yan in castigation.

All right, this was an awesome guy too.

Everyone else felt like they were about to lose their minds. Whether it was Ling Han or Feng Yan, where had they gotten such strong confidence to dare to create such a commotion?

"Headmaster, please apprehend Ling Han and hand him over to me to be dealt with!" Feng Yan turned and said to Lian Guang Zu. Though his words were polite, it seemed as if he was requesting Lian Guang Zu to do as he requested.

To make a request of an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and someone who held the revered position of Headmaster of the Martial Arts Department?

The others were all in disbelief. Though Feng Yan had offended the Eldest Imperial Prince previously, the latter was still in Gushing Spring Tier, after all. In this world where the most important thing was martial arts ability, the Eldest Imperial Prince was far from being able to compare to Lian Guang Zu in terms of status.

Lian Guang Zu's status was only below the current Rain Emperor in Rain Country, and was able to stand on even ground with the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans.

Commanding Lian Guang Zu?

The others could not help but gather a layer of cold sweat on their bodies.

"Headmaster!" the Eldest Imperial Prince interrupted, looking at Lian Guang Zu.

Lian Guang Zu sighed, and said, "Please do not interfere in this matter, Eldest Imperial Prince!"

What!

When they heard his words, did that mean the Lian Guang Zu was going to obey Feng Yan's command?

"Heng, Old Man Lian, if it was me who wanted to interfere, are

you planning to stop me too?" Wu Song Lin appeared, looking coldly at Lian Guang Zu.

‘Hiss, here comes another big boss,’ everyone thought.

Chapter 179: Olive Branch

"Old Man Wu, don't interfere with this matter!" Lian Guang Zu waved his hand. "I do not want to spoil our many years of friendship!"

"Nonsense!" Wu Song Lin instantly rebuked.

"This brat has, after all, dealt someone a crippling injury, so he must definitely be punished according to the Academy regulations!" Lian Guang Zu's attitude also became unyielding.

"Wasn't it just crippling a piece of trash?" Wu Song Lin dismissed lightly.

"Master Wu, please speak cautiously!" Feng Yan interrupted, actually carrying a hint of threat in his tone.

"Who do you think you are that you dare to reprimand me!" Wu Song Lin humphed, his right hand flashing out in a strike towards Feng Yan. He was an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so though this strike was only a very casual move, it held within it unbelievable power. Origin Power transformed into a gigantic hand that flew towards Feng Yan.

Peng!

Lian Guang Zu moved in the nick of time, and managed to disperse the power behind Wu Song Lin's blow. He frowned, and said, "Old Man Wu, are you intending to go against me?"

"As long as you don't touch him, I naturally would not bother to fight you either." Wu Song Lin took one step back.

Lian Guang Zu stared at Wu Song Lin, and Wu Song Lin also stared at him. Two old men, whose ages added together came up to a total of over one hundred fifty years, were thus stuck in a glaring contest with each other.

"All right, Old Man Wu, I'll give you face this time." Lian Guang

Zu nodded.

"Headmaster!" Feng Yan spoke up, displeased.

"Heng, bring your brother with you, let's go and see if we can still manage to reattach his arms." Lian Guang Zu frowned in slight impatience.

Feng Yan did not dare to say anything else. He simply picked up Feng Luo and followed at the heels of Lian Guang Zu. One pair of the four Great Guardian Deities each carried one of Feng Luo's arms, and the party left together.

A chaotic conflict thus ended in this manner.

Wu Song Lin gave Ling Han a light nod, and left directly. There were too many people here, so he did not want to reveal the relationship between himself and Ling Han. He only wanted to let them know that Ling Han was under his protection, and that was enough.

"Brother Ling, if you do not mind, why not join me for a cup of tea?" the Eldest Imperial Prince said to Ling Han, smiling.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "Many thanks for your help just now, Your Imperial Highness. This Ling Han is extremely grateful."

"Please!"

"Please!"

The two of them left together, and when he passed by Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi, Ling Han said, "The two of you go to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion and seek out Yuanchu. Just tell him that it was I who told the two of you to go, and stay at his place for a while."

"Thank you, Big Brother Ling!" Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi said, filled with gratitude.

Ling Han nodded. The reason why the two of them had been targeted by Feng Luo was because of him after all, so he would definitely not just stand by and watch as they continue to be

victimized.

The Eldest Imperial Prince brought Ling Han with him to a tea shop and requested for an elegant room. The middle-aged man naturally stood guard outside the door, and only Ling Han and the Eldest Imperial Prince were seated inside.

"I heard that Brother Ling is very friendly with various Grandmaster Alchemists, and from what I witnessed today, that is indeed the case," the Eldest Imperial Prince said. His eyes were slightly guarded, and there was also a sliver of heat in his gaze.

Ling Han knew very well that the Third Imperial Prince had, thanks to him, welcomed quite a few of previously hesitating neutral parties into his camp. As a result, the Eldest Imperial Prince could naturally not stay composed in the face of this, and similarly extended an olive branch towards him.

Before this, alchemists would never interfere in the competition for the throne as they stood completely above it. However, with Ling Han's appearance, many different unpredictable variables were all of a sudden added into the balance.

If any Imperial Prince managed to gain Ling Han's support, that would be equivalent to gaining the support of the alchemists of Rain Country. This was an incomparably terrifying power, and even if the current Rain Emperor wanted to pass on his throne, he would have to consider things carefully. After all, this could possibly disturb the roots of the Empire.

Thus, the Eldest Imperial Prince also hoped to maintain a good relationship with Ling Han. Additionally, Wu Song Lin's previous attitude also reaffirmed this idea in his mind.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "Does the Eldest Imperial Prince know what means that Feng Yan has obtained that even Headmaster Lian would be so partial towards him?"

The Eldest Imperial Prince frowned, and revealed a furious

expression. He could not help but smack a hand on the table, and said, "That traitor!"

He might not hate Feng Yan so much, but it was obvious that Feng Yan and Ling Han were deadly foes. Thus, he naturally would not mind presenting a slightly exaggerated front in order to form a closer relationship with Ling Han.

"This man has a special physical constitution, and is also very powerful in battle. However, if it was just that, he could only at most obtain Lian Guan Zu's recognition, but would definitely not be able to command the latter. But from the looks of Feng Yan's attitude, though he looks respectful on the surface, in truth, it seems as if he is Lian Guang Zu's superior. This is indeed strange," Ling Han murmured.

The Eldest Imperial Prince sank into a pensive state as well. What power had Feng Yan obtained that could actually cause an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier—a highly revered old headmaster at that—to practically obey his commands?

As the Eldest Imperial Prince of Rain Country, he actually had no idea about any of this, and this caused a kind of unease to rise up in him.

"I will begin investigating this matter," the Eldest Imperial Prince said, then looked towards Ling Han and continued with a serious expression, "Brother Ling is a smart man, so I will not beat around the bush and waste time."

"What do you want to say, Your Imperial Highness?" Ling Han said with a slight smile, though he already knew why the Eldest Imperial Prince had paid him this visit.

"I would like to ask you to assist me to ascend to the throne!" the Eldest Imperial Prince said. Suddenly, the aura of a ruler exuded from him, and his eyes shone with a powerful light.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "What ability do I have that I

could actually help Your Imperial Highness ascend to the throne?"

"Hahahaha, Brother Ling, you are being too modest!" The Eldest Imperial Prince laughed loudly before he suddenly changed the topic, "If I successfully ascend to the throne, the Ling Clan would be a loyal subject that has performed an outstanding service for me. I would be able to name you a King!"

King!

If these words were heard by the members of the court, they would definitely be shocked numb by the weight of this promise.

In the history of Rain Country, there had never been anyone who had rendered such outstanding service that they would be named as a King, even if they were not members of the Qi Family. For royal subjects, this could be considered as the highest honor they could attain in their lifetimes.

As a result, the Eldest Imperial Prince's face was filled with expectation. He believed that Ling Han would immediately agree. However, he was very quickly disappointed, as there was no hint of change in Ling Han's expression at all. His eyes were clear and deep, as if great imperial power was only a fleeting scene in his eyes.

Ling Han slowly opened his mouth, and said, "I do not have any bit of interest in power." In his last life, he had been one of the strongest existences in this world after all, what more when he had also been the Alchemy Emperor. How could a mere mortal emperor compare to the power he had in his grasp at the time?

In this lifetime, he only had one target, and that was to become a Grandmaster of martial arts, shatter the void, break through his mortal chains and become a god.

The Eldest Imperial Prince was actually a very good speaker, but now he suddenly felt a kind of awkwardness that came from not knowing how to continue the conversation. This was because he

had already revealed his best trump card, yet Ling Han did not even spare him any consideration.

Could it be that he had to yield the imperial throne itself to Ling Han? That has got to be a joke.

He considered for a moment, and said, "Brother Ling, if I manage to ascend to the throne, I will allow you to have the chance to break through to Flower Blossoming Tier!"

Ling Han could not help but put on a strange expression, casting a look at the Eldest Imperial Prince.

In Rain Country, due to the restrictions placed on martial arts and cultivation techniques, no matter how highly talented one was, they would still be unable to break through to Flower Blossoming Tier. Thus, this oath of the Eldest Imperial Prince could be considered to be unbelievably shocking. Even the Elders of the Eight Great Clans would most likely be moved by this promise.

However, for Ling Han, what was so difficult about breaking through to Flower Blossoming Tier? He was an elite of Heaven Tier in his last life!

"Though I am not sure about the exact details, but it should have some relation with power of the nation, right?" Ling Han was indeed quite curious, and asked the Eldest Imperial Prince with a raised brow.

The Eldest Imperial Prince was instantly struck dumb.

Chapter 180: Eye of Truth

The power of the nation could help an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier break through to Flower Blossoming Tier. Such a huge secret was only discovered by the Eldest Imperial Prince under the most coincidental of circumstances. Moreover, this was not the actual Flower Blossoming Tier, as it required the continuous instillation of power of the nation to allow one to maintain his cultivation of Flower Blossoming Tier. Otherwise, one would very quickly once again fall back to the mortal plane.

It was precisely because of this that there existed only a single elite warrior of Flower Blossoming Tier in the whole of Rain Country.

When the Eldest Imperial Prince set out this condition, he was actually being a little untruthful. When he ascended the throne, he would definitely stimulate the power of the nation for Ling Han's use, but the length of the period that Ling Han could access it... That was a different story.

After all, by that time, he would be the new Rain Emperor, and have gained control over the entire empire and immeasurable power. Who would dare go against him, or object to his actions?

He had never thought that Ling Han seemed to have a deeper understanding of the power of the nation than even him, and Ling Han obviously did not place much importance on it either.

He could not help but be flabbergasted. Women, wealth, and power—all of these were unwanted. He could still understand that, but that even the possibility of breaking through to Flower Blossoming Tier could be set aside so easily as if it was something common... He was really at a loss by now. Such a man seemed to have completely no wants or desires, and as the saying went, a man without wants could stay firm in his resolution. What else could he offer that would successfully attract Ling Han to support

him?

Ling Han smiled and said, "In truth, I am only friends with the Third Imperial Prince, and have never become his subordinate. I can also become friends with Your Imperial Highness. I have no desire for power, and have no intention to interfere in a struggle for power either."

The Eldest Imperial Prince finally looked better at this. He frowned slightly, considered for a while, then spoke, "Does Young Master Han have any interest in Mystical Power?"

Previously, he had already taken Ling Han to be a profligate spoilt young master who had somehow managed to obtain the favor of a considerable number of alchemists—just like Feng Yan, who had some kind of unknown background. As a result, though he still placed a lot of importance on maintaining an amiable relation with Ling Han, it was a different story whether he truly respected Ling Han or not in his heart.

However, through this conversation with Ling Han, he did not dare underestimate this young man who was only sixteen or seventeen years old any longer, and unconsciously began to use a respectful address for Ling Han.

Ling Han was surprised, and asked, "Mystical Power?"

"That's right, Mystical Power!" The Eldest Imperial Prince nodded, and began to explain, "Mystical Powers are extremely unique. Some Mystical Powers could wound your enemies and possess formidable power. Some Mystical Powers could only assist and support you in battle. Some claim them to be a kind of martial arts technique, yet they will not expend your Origin Power. However, every kind of Mystical Power is extremely precious, and could never be obtained even with a large amount of wealth!"

Ling Han naturally knew what Mystical Powers were. These techniques were extremely rare; even he in his last life had not witnessed the use of Mystical Powers too many times. However,

from the few times that he had seen them in action, they had left behind a very powerful impression on his memory.

When he ventured deep into various historical sites, he encountered a kind of special physical constitution that could use a Mystical Power that could "Swallow the Heavens and Devour the Earth". The user was obviously only in Deity Transformation Tier, yet still managed to swallow him into his stomach, and he was almost digested.

Though the holder of this special physical institution was later eliminated by Ling Han, if he was to be honest, then if both of them were at the same cultivation level—even if Ling Han was in the ninth layer and his opponent was merely in the first—the conclusion of their battle could possibly be completely different.

Unfortunately, he had not managed to pry the origins of this Mystical Power from the mouth of that enemy of his.

Ling Han's interest was stirred, and he asked, "From the words of Your Imperial Highness, you apparently possess a Mystical Power then?"

"I do not, but the National Treasury does," The Eldest Imperial Prince said with a serious expression. "As long as Young Master Han helps me ascend to the throne, I will definitely hand over this Mystical Power over to you!"

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "Your Imperial Highness is not being very sincere. If you can manage to bring this Mystical Power and show it to me within these few days, I can consider your offer."

"The Mystical Power is much too precious, and is locked within the inner chambers. Even I am unable to enter within, so how am I supposed to bring it out for you!" the Eldest Imperial Prince said with a little frustration.

Ling Han had obtained a useful piece of information, and that

was that the National Treasury had an inner chamber within. He laughed, and said, "Then what is the effect of this Mystical Power? Your Imperial Highness should at least know this, right?"

"Eye of Truth," the Eldest Imperial Prince said, looking a bit guilty.

He had never cultivated this Mystical Power before, but knew that the Eye of Truth would not increase one's battle prowess in any way, and could only help one to see through false illusions. In his opinion, what use was there for this ability?

Thus, he was naturally a bit guilty. But no matter how lousy a Mystical Power it was, it was still a Mystical Power. That was why he dared to offer it to tempt Ling Han to support him.

Ling Han was stunned for a moment before ecstasy rose up in his heart.

The Eye of Truth indeed did not possess any ability to damage or harm one's opponent. However, it was even more precious than a lot of other Mystical Powers that had ability to attack, because it would allow one to see through all kinds of false illusions and see the real truth. In a simpler example, after cultivating the Eye of Truth, he need not fear any kinds of illusionary arts nor deceptions.

And what was even more terrifying was the fact that the Eye of Truth would allow him to see the weaknesses of both himself and his opponent.

Being able to see the weaknesses of others would allow him to maximize his attacks to the full extent, while being able to see his own weaknesses would allow him to improve upon them. Even if there was no way he could improve his weaknesses, he would still be able to protect these weak points of his better.

Ling Han did not know whether there was any even stronger ability to this Mystical Power or not. After all, he had only heard of

this kind of Mystical Power and had never seen it before in his last life.

Who would have thought? Who would have thought that, in this tiny little Rain Country, there would actually be hidden such a powerful Mystical Power?

Ling Han thought for a moment. He had indeed discovered a considerable number of precious treasures in Rain Country, such as... the remains of an ultimate warrior of Shattering Void Tier!

Perhaps when so many elites and ultimate warriors had gathered all those years ago, there had been a few that had only suffered heavy injuries but had not died. After the battle, they stayed in Rain Country, and left behind such a powerful Mystical Power like the Eye of Truth.

Ling Han was moved in his heart, but there was no hint of change in his expression. How could he so easily wear his heart on his sleeve after two whole lifetimes? He asked, "Your Imperial Highness does not seem to have cultivated this Mystical Power?"

Otherwise, he may not take it out as a bargaining chip.

The Eldest Imperial Prince shook his head and said, "The Eye of Truth has a very special condition for inheritance. It is hidden in an eyeball, and one must somehow gain its acceptance and acknowledgement before it would directly enter into one's consciousness. Otherwise, it is only a piece of scrap."

Ling Han gave an 'oh' at this. No wonder he had not managed to find the Mystical Power 'Swallow the Heavens and Devour the Earth'. So this kind of inheritance was completely different from cultivation techniques and martial arts, and was not depicted in mere words or pictures.

Intriguing.

He smiled and said, "When Your Imperial Highness can bring that eyeball to me, we can continue to discuss our cooperation."

But, as for now, let's just be friends, all right?"

The Eldest Imperial Prince knew very well that empty promises would not be able to move Ling Han—whatever he could promise, so could the Third Imperial Prince, which meant he had no advantage over the latter. However, he had at least managed to befriend Ling Han, so other matters could be advanced slowly.

"Young Master Han, there will be an auction at the Spirit Treasures Pavilion the day after tomorrow, and it is rumored that there will even be an incomparably precious Foundation Building Pill up for auction. Are you interested to go take a look?" the Eldest Imperial Prince earnestly inquired him.

Ling Han could not help but put on a strange expression. This Foundation Building Pill was naturally his, but he had never thought that it would actually become the most precious of auction items. He was just about to shake his head in refusal, but then reconsidered. Rain Country's overall level was too low. Who knows if there may be some treasures that may not be recognized for their worth.

"I don't mind going for a look." He changed his mind.

"Hahahaha, then I shall come receive you personally the day after tomorrow." The Eldest Imperial Prince was very satisfied. If he appeared in public with Ling Han, then that would definitely create an image that he had a very close relationship with Ling Han. By that time, those middle-class clans would have to reconsider their decisions.

Ling Han nodded and took his leave. He still had to go and visit Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi.

Chapter 181: Promise

He was not sure if the Eldest Imperial Prince would be able to find the secret Feng Yan was hiding, but based on his estimation, odds were low.

That was because the Third Imperial Prince had already taken action a few days ago, yet because of the appearance and interference of Lian Guang Zu, the imperial guards the Third Imperial Prince had sent were easily chased out of the Academy. After such an incident, the Third Imperial Prince would definitely have begun his own investigation on Feng Yan.

If the Third Imperial Prince had discovered anything, then he would definitely have come to inform Ling Han. Unfortunately, there was no news at all from the Third Imperial Prince even by now, so it was evident that he had not managed to find anything out.

When Ling Han arrived at Heaven's Medicine Pavilion, Ling Han first comforted Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi. For the moment, Li Hao would definitely be unable to return to the Academy, but for Li Hao, this was definitely a blessing in disguise.

What kind of place was the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion?

A place that sold medicines!

There may be nothing else here, but if one were talking about alchemical pills, perhaps at least about one third of the supply of alchemical pills in the whole of Rain Country could be found here. And if you were talking about high grade alchemical pills, then these pills were basically all distributed from this place to other parts of Rain Country.

Ling Han now took Li Hao as a real friend, so he naturally would request Yuanchu to provide an unlimited supply of alchemical pills for Li Hao while he himself would also guide Li Hao a bit on his

path of cultivation.

Just think, he had both an endless supply of alchemical pills, as well as someone who used to be an elite of Heaven Tier to guide him in his cultivation. If Li Hao's prowess was still unable to improve drastically, then he really should find a piece of tofu and knock himself to death.

Li Hao and Zhu Xue Yi naturally understood this logic, so they could not help becoming even more grateful towards Ling Han. They both secretly decided that they would definitely do something for Ling Han in the future to repay him.

After leaving Heaven's Medicine Pavilion, Ling Han had yet to return to the Academy when he was stopped midway and invited over by the Third Imperial Prince.

"Brother Ling!" The Third Imperial Prince was still exuding his signature dominating aura, though there was an added sliver of concern on his face. "I heard that my Eldest Brother went to see you today?"

"Since Your Imperial Highness is already aware, then why do you need to ask a question that you already know the answer to?" Ling Han said directly. He was not the slightest bit interested in the competition between these two brothers, and did not have the slightest intention to get himself involved in such a troublesome issue.

"Hehe!" The Third Imperial Prince laughed. "I trust that Brother Ling would not be so easily moved by my Eldest Brother's flowery words."

Ling Han could not help but smile, and said, "That may not be." He recited the conditions that the Eldest Imperial Prince had set out, and the expression on the Third Imperial Prince's face constantly changed as he heard Ling Han's words, secretly thinking that the Eldest Imperial Prince was indeed ruthless that he would even dare promise to name Ling Han as a King and assist

him to break through to Flower Blossoming Tier.

One had to understand that even if the current Rain Emperor wanted to name someone not of the Qi Family as a King, he would still encounter much objection from the members of the imperial court. There were too many high stakes involved in this matter, and it was definitely not something so simple that merely granting a title would be able to resolve it.

...If one were to be named King, then he should definitely have a piece of land to build his own kingdom. However, Rain Country had already been established for a few thousand years and all the land under the administration of the Empire had already long been divided amongst the nobility, so where would Ling Han's land come from? Unless Ling Han were to lead the army out to war and occupy the land belonging to the neighboring nations?

And using the power of the nation to help Ling Han break through to Flower Blossoming Tier was even more nonsense. If it was as easy as that, then why was there only a single person in Flower Blossoming Tier in the whole of Rain Country?

"I know that Brother Ling is extremely loyal, and would definitely not betray me!" The Third Imperial Prince laughed loudly, seeming to be very happy. However, Ling Han noticed the dark tone underlining his laughter.

In a struggle for the throne, who would not be cold-blooded and cruel? Even blood and flesh brothers would be able to stab each other.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "That may not be. If there was enough benefit in the game, then anything can be discussed."

"Pu!"

The Third Imperial Prince instantly choked, feeling as if someone had delivered a punch to his face. His expression was indescribably awkward. His face twitched and he forced out a smile, and said,

"Brother Ling is indeed a good joker."

Ling Han shook his head and said, "I am not joking here. For example, if I were able to cultivate the Eye of Truth, then I will definitely become good friends with Your Imperial Highness."

"Eye of Truth!" The expression on the Third Imperial Prince's face changed drastically, and he finally understood that the Eldest Imperial Prince had revealed the existence of this precious treasure to Ling Han. However, when compared with naming him as a King, or using power of the nation to help him break through to Flower Blossoming Tier, this Mystical Power was a much smaller bargaining chip. If it was not the fact that it was locked within the inner chamber, he would not mind taking it out and handing it over to Ling Han. After all, it was only a support-type Mystical Power, and after so many years, there was no one who had been able to obtain the inheritance from within, so he believed that Ling Han would not be an exception either.

Trading a practically useless item for a powerful support—how could a genius like the Third Imperial Prince not want to make such a profitable bargain? But the problem was that he indeed did not have the right to enter into the inner chamber.

Hold on!

The Third Imperial Prince tapped his finger, and said, "After another two months, it would be my Imperial Father's sixtieth birthday and the whole nation would be in celebration. At that time, my Imperial Father would definitely host a grand banquet for the guests, and draw out some treasures from the National Treasury for everyone to admire, so there would be a chance to enter into the National Treasury. However, the lock to the inner chamber is the Heaven and Earth United Lock, and unless one has the key, there is no way that it can be unlocked! Ai!"

However, Ling Han's eyes lit up at this. He had the Blood Sucking Origin Gold in his possession which could change shape following

his will and would be able to open any lock on this world, so this was nothing difficult for him. He said, "Then I really would like to enter into the National Treasury for a look."

The Third Imperial Prince was a smart man, so he immediately looked at Ling Han in shock and said, "Brother Ling has a way to unlock the Heaven and Earth United Lock?"

"Haha, I learnt a few tricks of lock-picking." Ling Han would naturally not reveal the existence of the Blood Sucking Origin Gold, so he simply used an excuse for cover.

The Third Imperial Prince considered for a moment, then said, "All right, when I manage to win over the position to organize this event, I will bring Brother Ling into the National Treasury. However, Brother Ling, let me say this first. There are a lot of extremely valuable treasures in the inner chamber, and they are extremely important, so you must definitely not take any of them. Otherwise, not just you, but even I will have to suffer the consequences."

"Don't worry. I am not interested in any other items," Ling Han said with a smile.

The Third Imperial Prince could not help but roll his eyes at this. He naturally would not believe Ling Han's words, but for the sake of obtaining Ling Han's support, he could not worry about these things. Moreover, he would be standing at one side to observe then, so he would definitely not let Ling Han do as he liked.

There were risks, but the risk level was under control.

"Then I shall take my leave first, and quietly wait for good news from Your Imperial Highness," Ling Han said, smiling.

"Brother Ling, please." The Third Imperial Prince nodded.

Ling Han cast a look at Zi Yan. The girl seemed to have changed into a completely different person and had become reticent with a colder attitude. He did not pay too much attention to this though.

It was none of his business, after all.

When he returned to his own courtyard in the Academy, he saw that Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were both there. Both of them had come to express their concerns.

"Afterwards, Master purposely went to visit Master Lian, but Master Lian said he had his own difficulties. He would unconditionally support whatever Feng Yan decided to do," Li Si Chan said.

Liu Yu Tong said, "I used the power of my Clan to investigate Feng Yan, but I was not able to find out anything. Just like you, he seems to have suddenly become powerful overnight."

Ling Han revealed a pensive expression. So Lian Guang Zu had actually said that he would unconditionally support whatever Feng Yan decided to do... That was a shocking promise. And the bigger the power in Feng Yan's hands, the more disadvantageous things would be for Ling Han.

Of course, he himself had the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion as well as the Alchemy Department behind him, and these two parties were definitely not beneath the Martial Arts Department in terms of power. If it really came to a full-on clash, then it would definitely draw the Imperial Family of Rain Country, as well as the Eight Great Clans, into this conflict.

...The Rain Emperor would definitely not allow this kind of internal conflict to ensue.

It was strange. He was able to subdue Fu Yuan Sheng, Wu Song Lin and the other alchemists because of his alchemy ability from his last life, but it most likely was not to the level that they would obey his every command.

"Feng Yan had risen up so suddenly and in such a strange manner. The Imperial Family of Rain Country must have done their own investigation on him. If even the power of a whole

nation is unable to find anything out, then you should not waste your time worrying about this manner," Ling Han said to Liu Yu Tong.

"Don't forget yourself!" Li Si Chan pointed out. "Isn't your rising very sudden and strange as well?"

Chapter 182: Reflection

Ling Han was stunned for a moment before breaking out in laughter.

That's right. He forgot about himself. He had been the Alchemy Emperor in his last life, so he naturally took the way that all alchemists respected him and held him in great reverence to be something very normal. However, he had forgotten that he was only seventeen years old now.

In the eyes of the politically powerful, he was also an unstable variable and an existence that could affect the stability of the reign of the Qi Family, and if things came to a head, he could even be easily eliminated!

"If they knew that I was the one who had concocted the nine Foundation Building Pills, they would be even more astonished, wouldn't they?" Ling Han murmured to himself as he supported his chin with one hand. The Foundation Building Pills were "divine medicine" that could really affect the current delicate power balance in Rain Country, and if there appeared another ten plus Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites, then things would definitely become a complete mess.

That was because the cake was only so big, and if there was someone new added to the mix who wanted to get his own share, then that would definitely mean that those who already had their own share would have to let go of a portion of their own share for the newcomer.

Who would want to let go of what they already had in their possession?

'I did not think things through far enough, it seems.' Ling Han reflected on his life since the moment that he had been reborn. It was still fine in Gray Cloud Town and Da Yuan City, but after entering into the Imperial City, it seems that he had been a bit too

brash.

'But so what if I am a bit brash? With the identity of a Black Grade high level alchemist, not even the Rain Emperor would easily take action against me.' Ling Han tapped his fingers in thought, as light flashed in his eyes. 'However, the issue about obtaining the Eye of Truth would have to be reconsidered.'

'Though I have never seen the Rain Emperor before, it is rumored that this Emperor is extremely intelligent and very capable at maintaining control. Those two sons of his keep planning and scheming here and there right in this Imperial City... how could he not notice at all?

Who knows, there may be Rain Emperor's spies planted right at the side of those two Imperial Princes.

If, at the moment I open up the inner chamber and retrieve the Eye of Truth, and was so 'coincidentally' caught red-handed, then even the status of an alchemist would not be able to protect me. My only fate would be being executed for my crime. Otherwise, I would be imprisoned for life to keep concocting alchemical pills for the Qi Family for the rest of my days.'

A sliver of a smile flickered at the corners of Ling Han's lips, and he thought, 'I was too strong and powerful in my last life, so no one dared to use underhanded schemes against me. However, after my rebirth, I have been a bit careless. Who knows, I may meet with unexpected failure in what seems to be something very easy for me.

My priority now should be breaking through to Gushing Spring Tier, and discovering the real secrets of the black tower!

This is the most precious of all treasures in this world. I can't pick up the sesame seed and instead lose sight of the watermelon.'

When they saw his thoughts stray, both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan asked at the same time, "What are you thinking about?"

Right after their words fell, they both glared at each other. 'Why did she say the same thing as me again? How hateful.'

"It's nothing. I just broke through, so I need to stabilize my cultivation first," Ling Han said, smiling.

"Ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier!" Liu Yu Tong suddenly screamed.

"What?!" Li Si Chan was also shocked, because Ling Han was very obviously still in the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier just the day before.

He actually managed to break through two cultivation layers in a single day. Could he be even more outrageous than that?

"It's nothing to make a fuss about." Ling Han smiled calmly. In his last life, he had reached the formidable height of Heaven Tier, so how could such a small breakthrough in Element Gathering Tier cause him to feel ecstatic about?

"What a poser!" Both girls gave him a look of disdain.

'When did I pose?'

Ling Han felt very wronged, but he did not want to bother himself to argue with the two girls, and instead continued to ponder over his sword arts as he wanted to form the seventh flash of Sword Qi.

Once he managed to form the seventh flash of Sword Qi, his battle prowess would be able to rise to another level. More importantly, that would mean that he was one more step closer to Sword Ray.

The conflict between Feng Yan and Ling Han caused huge waves at the Academy, because even the two Headmasters appeared at the end of the conflict.

Ling Han was still fine because Wu Song Lin did not say much. That was why the majority thought that he had just coincidentally

passed by and decided to uphold the justice. Feng Yan was a different story. The theory about him being Lian Guang Zu's illegitimate son gave rise to a tremendous clamor, and the majority thought that was practically confirmed.

Of course, there were still some who managed to look deeper into things. Lian Guang Zu's attitude towards Feng Yan was not as if the latter was his illegitimate son, but rather more like a relationship between an old servant and his young master. However, this old servant had a very firm backbone, and the young master was still too weak. Thus, the relationship was not very distinct yet.

Whatever the case was, Feng Yan had already become a very popular and mighty figure in the eyes of the Academy. However, the fact that his younger brother had his arms sliced off by Ling Han, and he still was unable to do anything to Ling Han in vengeance, was still a hit to his image.

Feng Yan had already announced that Ling Han was his foe, and he would definitely kill Ling Han within three months. If anyone dared to befriend Ling Han, then they would not be able to escape a similar fate.

After these words were announced, the whole Academy was in an uproar as they all thought that Feng Yan was much too arrogant.

Putting aside the possibility that Feng Yan may be Lian Guang Zu's "illegitimate son", even if he was Lian Guang Zu's old man, he still did not have the right to rage so publically in the Imperial City and announce his intention to commit murder. After all, this was the land of the Qi Family, and not the Lian Clan.

Unexpectedly, the Imperial Family did not display any reaction about this matter. No one knew if they were only pretending that they had not heard of any such thing, or thought that Feng Yan was too young and so decided not to call him to account for the sake of Lian Guang Zu.

However, the new auction of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion was

right around the corner. Because there were nine Foundation Building Pills up for auction this time around, this caused incredible excitement to rise up among the Great Clans and the other middle-class clans. Even the Imperial Family would not be able to maintain their composure.

After all, there was only one person in Flower Blossoming Tier in the whole of Rain Country, and he had not appeared for many years, so it was unknown whether he was still alive or already dead. In Rain Country, the Spiritual Pedestal Tier was doubtlessly the strongest cultivation tier, and those in this cultivation level would be able to do as they liked and practically disregard the laws of the Empire. These people were really the elite of the elite.

The Foundation Building Pill could greatly increase the chances of a martial artist to break through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so this naturally attracted the excitement of every known party. Who would not want a few more such extremely powerful people to provide additional security for their own power base?

In the world of martial artists, everything was gained through power.

The middle-class clans wanted to obtain a Foundation Building Pill in order to ascend to the level of a Great Clan, while the Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family hoped to have a few more elites of Spiritual Pedestal Tier to strengthen the power of their own Clans and further secure their own position in the power balance.

This was destined to be a very fierce competition.

Ling Han was completely unbothered. Money was only something he needed to buy more medicinal ingredients and concoct more alchemical pills. Even if he had more of it, it was not of much use to him.

When the day of the auction arrived, the Eldest Imperial Prince had indeed arrived very early and earnestly extended an invitation

to Ling Han. Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were long aware of the auction, and so had naturally come early. Thus, Ling Han would have to bring along the both of them, as well as Hu Niu.

"Hahaha, so Young Master Han has already plucked the two most beautiful flowers of the Imperial City. I was still feeling a bit strange previously about the fact that Young Master Han did not have any beauties by his side, especially when you are so outstanding and elegant." The Eldest Imperial Prince laughed loudly, looking as if he had found a kindred spirit.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both blushed, but did not argue. It was unknown whether it was because they were a bit subdued by the Eldest Imperial Prince's power, or had just simply chosen to admit indirectly.

Meanwhile, Ling Han rolled his eyes. So this guy had previously thought that he had some kind of problem there ... or perhaps thought that he liked men? He laughed and said, "Yu Tong and Si Chan are my good friends."

"Good friends, I get it! I get it!" The Eldest Imperial Prince's smile became even more suggestive.

Damn, this guy of impure thoughts.

Ling Han changed the topic and asked, "Does Your Imperial Highness also want the Foundation Building Pill?"

"Though I have not yet broken through to Spiritual Ocean Tier, my current cultivation level would at most continue to trouble me for one more year!" the Eldest Imperial Prince said confidently. "If I manage to obtain a Foundation Building Pill, then I would have higher odds when I attempt breaking through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier in the future. Unfortunately, I am limited in my financial resources. Otherwise, I will definitely try to obtain all nine Foundation Building Pills. That way, my breakthrough to Spiritual Pedestal Tier would be practically definite."

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan could not help but look towards Ling Han. This guy very casually produced those nine Foundation Building Pills. If you manage to cling to him, then that would really ensure that you can successfully break through.

Chapter 183: Sun Zi Yan

Ling Han laughed and said, "A few **** ago, I was having lunch at a restaurant and coincidentally encountered a pair of assassins. Moreover, three members of the Black Cloud Army even died."

The Eldest Imperial Prince was stunned for a second, then asked, "Young Master Han was also at the scene on that day?"

"En." Ling Han nodded and said, "That woman seems to be a member of the Imperial Family, right? From the looks of her, she has yet to reach thirty years old, and yet has already stepped into Spiritual Ocean Tier. Her accomplishment is really something awe-inspiring."

The face of the Eldest Imperial Prince instantly darkened. He kept his silence for a moment, then said, "This woman's name is Xu Ke Xin, she had entered the court just a few years ago. My Imperial Father named her as Consort Yun, and dotes on her very much. Since Young Master Han knows that the power of the nation can help one to break through to Flower Blossoming Tier, then you should know that it can also help to speed up one's cultivation rate. However, the power of the nation is still limited, yet my Imperial Father actually used a large portion of it on a woman. Heng!"

The last words of the Eldest Imperial Prince were already extremely traitorous as he dared to actually criticize the actions of the current Emperor. However, it was also very obvious from his tone that the Eldest Imperial Prince was very displeased with this Xu Ke Xin.

Ling Han thought back on the naturally seductive appearance of Xu Ke Xin, and could not help but think that it was no wonder that even the Rain Emperor would be head over heels over her. She was indeed a captivating beauty. It was evident how much the Emperor doted on her just from the fact that she could leave the palace with

the Black Cloud Army as her guards. If she did not have the Emperor's favor, then, as an Imperial Consort, how could she so casually leave the Imperial Palace?

"Does this Consort Yun have any children?" Ling Han asked casually.

"Thankfully, no." The Eldest Imperial Prince shook his head. Otherwise, based on the way the Rain Emperor doted on her, neither himself nor the Third Imperial Prince would need to waste their time to compete for the throne.

As they conversed, time passed and they had arrived at the Spirit Treasures Pavilion. Right when they had just disembarked from their carriage, they saw a young man approach them and say, "This Sun Zi Yan greets Your Imperial Highness!"

Sun Zi Yan?

A thought flashed through Ling Han's head. He turned to look at this young man. The latter was average in terms of looks and was quite tall and slender. He should have just stepped into Gushing Spring Tier as his aura was still not very stable.

"Spare the niceties, Zi Yan." The Eldest Imperial Prince raised his hand slightly, naturally exuding the aura of a ruler.

The most powerful and greatest clan in Rain Country was naturally the Qi Family, which held control over the political court and had power that spread to all corners of their Empire.

However, the Sun Clan was only slightly beneath the Qi Family in status, so Sun Zi Yan was not really afraid of the Eldest Imperial Prince. After paying his greetings, he turned to look at Ling Han and said, "Brother Ling, we have finally met."

Looks like Sun Zi Yan was deliberately waiting for him here.

"Sun Zi Yan, what do you want?" Liu Yu Tong asked coldly. As a good female attendant, she naturally had to stand at the front lines.

A stunned and envious expression appeared on Sun Zi Yan's face. Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were known as the Twin Pearls of the Imperial City, and the number of men that were interested in them was enough to surround the whole Imperial City a few times. He himself was also one of the admirers.

Unfortunately, it seemed as if these two beautiful flowers were actually plucked by the same man. This was really something that would attract envy, jealousy, and hatred!

...If Ling Han had any idea of his current thoughts, he would definitely scream out loudly that he was innocent. The gods know that he really hadn't done anything. He was as pure as a little white flower.

Sun Zi Yan smiled and said, "I only wanted to settle a little conflict between myself and Brother Ling."

"Oh, there is such an issue?" the Eldest Imperial Prince interrupted.

"It's just a little misunderstanding," Sun Zi Yan said in an understatement.

"Oh?" Ling Han's eyes turned cold. "Are you talking about how that father-in-law of yours coveted my two little sisters, and when he did not succeed in tricking and kidnapping them, he sent people to snatch them from me? So that was a misunderstanding, tsk, tsk!"

Fury flashed through Sun Zi Yan's face, but he forced it down and said, "Brother Ling, aren't those two little sisters of yours unscathed and completely unharmed? I am here to represent my father-in-law to offer up an apology, and will also deliver a gift as thanks for accepting our apology, so please forget about this matter, Brother Ling, and not continue doing something that will only damage both sides."

The Eldest Imperial Prince nodded, and said with a smile, "Since

Zi Yan is so sincere, why won't Brother Ling give me some face and forgive Zi Yan and forget the whole matter?"

Liu Yu Tong looked on with a little worry. She knew Ling Han's personality very well and feared that Ling Han would come into a direct conflict with the Eldest Imperial Prince.

Ling Han laughed loudly. When Sun Zi Yan and the Eldest Imperial Prince saw this, they both laughed as well, thinking that the "misunderstanding" was settled.

"No!" Right at this moment, Ling Han suddenly declared.

"Cough! Cough!"

Both the Eldest Imperial Prince and Sun Zi Yan did not manage to get their breath back and broke out into coughs. Their faces were darkened as they looked at Ling Han. Since you are not agreeing to resolving things peacefully, then why were you laughing so happily?

"Brother Ling, I am being very sincere here!" Sun Zi Yan's tone deepened considerably as well, a hint of threat underlining his words.

Ling Han smiled calmly and said, "I am also very sincerely telling you that there is no way that this matter will be resolved peacefully! That old father-in-law of yours is a complete scum, and continuing to allow him to live in this world would only be a waste of food."

"Brother Ling, are you intending to declare war with the Sun Clan with this?" Sun Zi Yan asked darkly.

"Hehe, Zi Yan, you are being too harsh in your words, aren't you?" the Eldest Imperial Prince stepped out as mediator. He did not want to first form an enmity with the Sun Clan when he had yet to obtain the support that would come with an amiable relationship with Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled and asked, "Sun Zi, Yan, can you really

represent the Sun Clan?"

"You dare to insult me?" Sun Zi Yan glared at him. This guy must have been deliberate, pausing while saying his name in such a way that Sun Zi came first, then followed by Yan.

"Yi, isn't Sun Zi Yan your name? So does that mean calling your name is equivalent to insulting you? What a weird fellow." Ling Han shook his head.

"Heng, it would be all right if you call my name in a normal way, but the way you called my name just now must have been deliberate!" Sun Zi Yan declared harshly.

Ling Han revealed a very innocent expression, and asked, "How did I call you just now, again?"

"Sun Zi, Yan!" Sun Zi Yan did not suspect anything and repeated his name the way Ling Han had called his name just now. But just after the words left his mouth, he finally realized his blunder and flew into a great rage as he shouted, "Ling Han, you dare to trick me!"

"With an intelligence level like yours, ai!" Ling Han shook his head. "You really only deserve to be a grandson!"

"You're looking for death!" Sun Zi Yan was furious and aimed a harsh punch towards Ling Han.

Ting!

Liu Yu Tong stepped out and blocked Sun Zi Yan's fist with the hilt of her sword. She said coldly, "Sun Zi Yan, don't force me to draw my sword.

Sun Zi Yan took one step back and looked at Liu Yu Tong with caution. He was not able to detect her real cultivation level, which made it evident that she had superior cultivation to his—he needed to be extremely cautious when facing her.

"Haha, both of you are important subjects of our nation, so please

avoid coming into conflict," the Eldest Imperial Prince interrupted, standing between the two of them.

The two of them were both members of the Eight Great Clans. It was all right if it was just a spar, but if there was any loss of life, then even an Imperial Prince like himself would have to bear the blame. At such an important time in the battle for the throne, even the slightest mistake could cause him to lose all hope of his dreams of inheriting the throne.

"When you return, let Chen Yun Xiang clean his neck properly, as I will personally send him to the executioner's block," Ling Han said calmly, but there was an extremely determined tone underlining his words.

Sun Zi Yan regained his composure, and asked, "Ling Han, must you do something that will hurt both sides?"

"What do you mean by hurting both sides?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

"Heng, since that is so, then don't blame me for taking action!" Sun Zi Yan said coldly. "Let me give you a piece of helpful advice. You should be more careful with those stores of yours. The Imperial City is too big, so it is unavoidable that some rogues would come to make trouble!"

Ling Han sighed, and said, "Then I would have to eliminate another Clan then."

His words were spoken very lightly, but the Eldest Imperial Prince had still vaguely heard them and his expression instantly changed.

Chapter 184: Please Go Up to the Third Floor

Eliminate another Clan? The Sun Clan?

The Eldest Imperial Prince could not help but turn to look at Ling Han. Though he looked very highly upon Ling Han, not even all the alchemists of Rain Country standing behind Ling Han would be able to eliminate the Sun Clan. That was because the Eight Great Clans were the pillars of support of the nation, and if things really proceeded to that step, then not only would the Rain Emperor take action, even the Elder of the Qi Family that usually stood behind the scenes would spring out into the open.

But from the extremely calm and composed, practically cold look on Ling Han's face, this did not seem like words of anger he had said simply in the heat of the moment. The hidden depths within his eyes even caused an icy feeling to rise up in the heart of the Eldest Imperial Prince.

How could that be!

He was in the ninth layer of Gushing Spring Tier and had one foot into the door of Spiritual Ocean Tier. Moreover, he was the Eldest Imperial Prince of the Empire, yet he would actually feel a bit of fear just from looking at the eyes of a young man.

"Heng, I hope you will not be so foolish!" Sun Zi Yan did not hear Ling Han's murmur. The flick of his sleeves was proof enough of his extreme displeasure.

That was natural. He had thought that he only needed to step out as a mediator and the conflict between Ling Han and Chen Yun Xiang would be resolved with a few words from him. He had not thought that Ling Han would not give him the slightest bit of face.

The Eldest Imperial Prince did not speak any more words of advice. Ling Han's words previously were obviously spoken just loud enough for him to be able to hear. If he continued to advise

Ling Han, would Ling Han speak even more shocking words, and declare his intention to "eliminate another clan"?

Then that would really be considered treason.

Sun Zi Yan turned and left. When he arrived at the entrance to the Spirit Treasures Pavilion, an old man came up to receive him and said, "Zi Yan, what did that brat say?" It was Chen Yun Xiang.

A sliver of displeasure flickered across Sun Zi Yan's face. Though he did not care about the lives of a few commoners, he still felt very disgusted with this old man that had that kind of perverted fetish. Still, what could he do? This was his father-in-law, after all.

"He refused to let it go!" He shook his head.

Chen Yun Xiang was stunned at first before immediately saying angrily, "This brat actually refused to give face even to you, Zi Yan, just because he has the protection of the princess of the Liu Clan!"

Sun Zi Yan humphed. He naturally knew that Chen Yun Xiang was fanning the flames, but he was indeed displeased. "Both the Eldest and Third Imperial Princes seem to have quite an amiable relation with this brat. It's not as simple as him depending on a woman."

"What!?" Chen Yun Xiang instantly broke out into a cold sweat. The Chen Clan was only a minor clan, and if he actually attracted the displeasure of such important people like the Eldest and Third Imperial Prince, that would mean that the Chen Clan could be eliminated at any time.

"What are you so afraid of?" Sun Zi Yan asked coldly.

"Hehe, with Zi Yan to protect me, I naturally need not fear anything," Chen Yun Xiang quickly flattered him. Though he was Sun Zi Yan's father-in-law, their social status was completely different.

Sun Zi Yan gave another humph. He turned back around and looked as Ling Han and his group walked up the stairs, an icy smile

flickering around the corners of his lips.

"Greetings, Your Imperial Highness!" The guards standing at the entrance of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion were naturally clever people, so when they saw the Eldest Imperial Prince, they quickly hurried forwards and bowed in greeting. Meanwhile, a minor manager immediately came out to receive them as he said, "With the grand arrival of Your Imperial Highness, Young Masters and Princesses, our pavilion is honored by your appearance! Please! Please!"

With that minor manager guiding them, they followed him and walked up the staircase.

The second and third floors were both comprised of private rooms, but there were only twenty of them available on the third floor. They were reserved for extremely important people such as the current Rain Emperor, the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans, the two Headmasters of Hu Yang Academy as well as the Pavilion Master of the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion. Any others—even if it was the Eldest and Third Imperial Prince—would only be able to settle for a private room on the second floor.

Thus, when they arrived on the landing on the second floor, they naturally had to stop climbing the stairs.

"Our esteemed guests, your private room awaits you on the third floor," the minor manager said in a strange tone.

"Yi!"

Everyone's steps paused. Third floor? How could that be possible! If you were talking about the person with the highest status amongst them, then that would definitely be the Eldest Imperial Prince. However, even he did not have the right to go up to the third floor, unless he managed to ascend to the imperial throne and become the ruler of this Empire.

"Young Master Han is the most honored guest of our Pavilion,

and so naturally has the right to go up to the third floor!" the minor manager said, respectfully bowing in Ling Han's direction.

‘What!?’

Everyone was dumbstruck. How could that be?

What right did his brat, merely sixteen or seventeen years old and in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, have to go up to the third floor and be on the same level as the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans, the two Headmasters of the Academy, the Boss of alchemy in Rain Country, or even the Rain Emperor?

Ling Han glanced cursorily at the minor manager, and the latter only offered him a good-natured smile. He knew that the Spirit Treasures Pavilion, to confirm the origin of the Foundation Building Pills, must have gone to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion and done their own investigation. They would have found out that the pills were concocted by Ling Han.

Those were Foundation Building Pills one was talking about here. Their grade was close to Earth Grade pills, and this not only implied that Ling Han was already a Black Grade high level alchemist, but that he was practically a confirmed Earth Grade alchemist in the near future.

Such a person would still not have the right to go up to the third floor?

"Haha, thanks to Young Master Han, I would be able to go up to the third floor now." The Eldest Imperial Prince laughed loudly, though there was a sliver of confusion and envy, as well as astonishment, in his eyes.

The Spirit Treasures Pavilion was a business, so how could they break their own rules? Since they had prepared a private room on the third floor for Ling Han, that meant that Ling Han had power or background that deserved this kind of priority treatment. This was astonishing to him. What right did Ling Han have to be on the

same level as the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans and the Boss of alchemy of Rain Country and other such extremely important people?

Sun Zi Yan's expression instantly darkened. He had previously looked down on Ling Han, and thought that he was so arrogant because a woman backed him, and now, through some unknown means, he had gotten his hooks into the Eldest and Third Imperial Prince. But from the looks of the current scenario, it was obvious he was wrong in his estimation.

...Not even the Eldest Imperial Prince had the right to enjoy a private room on the third floor, what more to actually obtain one for Ling Han.

He was surprised, and Chen Yun Xiang was even more dumbstruck. He was so scared that his face had completely paled. Secretly, he was already beginning to regret his utter misfortune and that he would actually encounter such a deadly character like Ling Han.

When he looked at Ling Han ascend further up the steps, a complicated expression appeared on Sun Zi Yan's face. Should he still continue down his path of darkness and continue to go against Ling Han? It was obvious that the latter's background was very likely astonishingly powerful.

When he looked at Chen Yun Xiang, he could not help but think of his beautiful and seductive concubine. Then his gaze became even more determined.

It was already decided that he would interfere in this matter. Not only was it for the sake of that concubine of his, but also for his own pride. He was a young master of the Sun Clan, and no one should be able to step on his pride!

There were only twenty private rooms on the third floor, but each private room was extremely spacious, with capacity to accomodate a few dozen people. Moreover, there were also

beautiful female attendants waiting to serve guests within, earnestly serving dishes and filling their cups.

Ling Han and the others all sat down, while Hu Niu knelt on Ling Han's lap solemnly, her little figure held firmly and strictly.

"Young Master Han, is this your sister?" the Eldest Imperial Prince said with a smile.

"Something like that," Ling Han said, smiling. He dotingly rubbed Hu Niu's head, and a satisfied expression instantly appeared on the little girl's face. Like a kitten, she rubbed her head against Ling Han's chest.

The Eldest Imperial Prince observed Hu Niu closely for a moment, and could not hold back an expression of shock. He pointed at Hu Niu and said in astonishment, "She, she, she, she, she's actually in Element Gathering Tier!"

This little girl was only about five or six years old, but was shockingly already in Element Gathering Tier. This was enough to shock anyone to death!

Hu Niu glared at the Eldest Imperial Prince in displeasure. Ling Han hated being pointed at by someone, and she was heavily influenced by Ling Han, and so naturally had the same dislike. Her little mouth opened wide, revealing her little white teeth, looking like she was ready to bite someone.

"Be good, Niu Niu," Ling Han said, smiling. Hu Niu instantly withdrew her fierce expression, and smiled sweetly at Ling Han.

The Eldest Imperial Prince, meanwhile, was stuck in a state of shock and astonishment. How could there be such a young person in Element Gathering Tier?! This was too unreal! Indeed, it seems that birds of a feather flock together. Ling Han himself was a monster, so even the people around him were monsters too!

Chapter 185: Bidding for the Foundation Building Pill

"My thanks to all our esteemed guests. We are honored by your presence." An old man dressed in an embroidered robe walked up to the auctioneer's stage and started tonight's auction. "I know very well that there are many here today who have come especially for the Foundation Building Pill. However, there is also a number of other quite good items prepared for the auction today, so I would advise everyone not to dump all your money on simply the Foundation Building Pill."

When they heard his words, everyone laughed, and the atmosphere instantly became more relaxed.

However, this relaxed state was only temporary. When the Foundation Building Pill appeared, it was guaranteed that all of them would become agitated. One Foundation Building Pill would allow a martial artist who stood at the top of the Spiritual Ocean Tier to build the foundations for his spiritual pedestal and enter a higher cultivation level to become one of the most influential persons in the whole of Rain Country. What person, or what clan, would not go crazy over it?

How many Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites were there in the whole of Rain Country?

Even for the Eight Great Clans and the Imperial Family, they would only have two or three Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites that were publicly known to oversee things in their clan. Even if there were a few that played the role of the hidden ace and thus not known publicly, if a Clan could have five such powerful martial artists in their ranks, it was definitely enough to shock everyone to death.

According to rumors, there would be nine Foundation Building Pills on auction today. If they could all be obtained by a single

party, then in the best case scenario, they would be able to allow nine martial artists at the peak of Spiritual Ocean Tier breakthrough to Spiritual Pedestal Tier!

What kind of concept was that? In a single instant, this Clan would be able to surpass the Eight Great Clans.

Of course, even after taking the Foundation Building Pill, it was not possible that every person who had swallowed it would be able to successfully break through, but if there was a 50% chance, that would mean there would be four or five who can successfully break through. If there was only one third of a chance, there would also be at least three.

Anyone who would not go crazy over them must be stupid.

So what if alchemical pills were exorbitantly expensive? As long as one was able to enter into Spiritual Pedestal Tier, no matter how much they had to pay for such an alchemical pill, they would be able to earn back easily.

Everyone laughed loudly, but all of their eyes had a determined gleam to them—tonight, even if they had to lose their entire family fortune, they would definitely get their hands on a Foundation Building Pill!

Ling Han felt a hidden current in the air, and could not help but smile. The Foundation Building Pills may be able to go for an astronomical price in the auction tonight. That was all thanks to the fact that there were really too few elites of Spiritual Pedestal Tier in Rain Country. If it was in a place where the field of martial arts was prosperous and booming, and there would be as many so-called elites of Spiritual Pedestal Tier as stray dogs, then how little would Foundation Building Pills be worth?

"I've never thought that there would be so many people. I was feeling confident at first and thought that, in the worst-case scenario, I had to at least get one or, better yet, two. However, now I'm feeling rather uneasy. The chances don't look very good even

for getting only one." The Eldest Imperial Prince, shaking his head.

Ling Han smiled and said, "Your Imperial Highness has yet to step into Spiritual Ocean Tier, and there is at least another five years until the time when you would need to attempt breaking through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Who knows, there may be new Foundation Building Pills again by then."

The Eldest Imperial Prince sighed and said, "Young Master Han may not be aware as you have just arrived in the Imperial City. However, at least as far as I can remember, never have alchemical pills that could aid one in breaking through appeared. Setting aside such high grade alchemical pills like the Foundation Building Pill, even the Purple Cloud Pill which is used to help to break through to Gushing Spring Tier is extremely rare!"

Ling Han instantly put on a strange expression. The main ingredient of that Purple Cloud Pill was the Dark Moon Grass, which could be used to help widen the space in one's Dantian. Even ultimate warriors of Heaven Tier would be moved by such a chance, so how could it not be rare?

"I don't know who has supplied these nine Foundation Building Pills tonight, but that person would definitely be making a killing!" the Eldest Imperial Prince said a little enviously.

The Imperial Family was extremely wealthy, but the Eldest Imperial Prince was still envious. It was obvious that he thought these nine Foundation Building Pills would be able to go for an astronomical amount that would cause even one such as him to lose control.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both turned their beautiful eyes to look at Ling Han. The fellow who would be making a killing tonight was precisely this laidback, relaxed young man right over here. And the person mentioned did not even look like he was taking this seriously at all.

"However, the Foundation Building Pills are very close to Earth

Grade. Even if they were concocted by an Earth Grade alchemist, chances for failure are still very high. In my opinion, at least about twenty or thirty furnaces' worth of ingredients would explode before successfully concocting these nine Foundation Building Pills. Going by this, although there is still profit to be earned, it is within reasonable limits," the Eldest Imperial Prince said in a very certain tone, changing the direction of the conversation.

He turned around and saw Ling Han and his two female companions had rather strange expressions. He could not help but feel surprised, and asked, "What is the matter with you all?"

Both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were trying to hold back their laughter. It was really a tough job.

...Ling Han was that person who had concocted these nine Foundation Building Pills. Moreover, he did it in one go. Additionally, one furnace should have only been able to produce eight pills, but he, with an amazing purification technique of his own, produced nine pills in the end.

The pill completion rate had practically exceeded a hundred percent.

You, with such a solemn, sure tone, declared that at least twenty or thirty furnaces had to explode before being able to concoct these nine pills... how could this not cause them to want to laugh uproariously?

Of course, these two girls were very reserved and still gave face to the Eldest Imperial Prince. Thus, through extreme willpower, they held back their laughter. However, this also caused their expressions to naturally become very strange.

Ling Han laughed, and asked, "How much money has Your Imperial Highness brought today?"

"Twenty million!"

"What a wealthy man!" Ling Han did not mind giving him such

praise in the slightest, because this money would very quickly enter into his pocket. Everyone would naturally love someone who would be delivering money to them.

"Oh, it's nothing." The Eldest Imperial Prince pretended to be very modest. In fact, this wealth was practically all his savings. After all, he was merely an Imperial Prince now.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both shook their heads, thinking, 'Your Imperial Highness, you're still pretending to be modest, but you don't know that this guy has already started considering all that money of yours as his.'

"Everyone, the nine Foundation Building Pills will be auctioned off separately throughout the entire auction, so please do not walk away and miss out on it. After the combined appraisal by a few alchemists of the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion hired by our Pavilion, these nine Foundation Building Pills are worth thirteen Stars! All of you should know what a grade of thirteen Stars implies, right?" the auctioneer said with a smile. Clapping his hands, he continued, "And now, to start off the auction, we'll be auctioning off the first Foundation Building Pill to liven up the atmosphere. The base price is five million, and every bid cannot be lower than one hundred thousand."

After he finished speaking, those rich and imposing people did not look very pleased, while those who were embarrassingly short of money smiled.

If these nine Foundation Building Pills were auctioned off in one go, then there would definitely be very few people able to afford them, so in the end, the price would not be too shocking. However, if they were auctioned off one by one, the competition would become much fiercer, and in extreme conditions, one Foundation Building Pill may go for a price that even exceeded the price of the other eight pills combined.

Thus, those rich people were naturally displeased, as this had

added a larger number of bidders they had to compete with for a single pill.

"Five million."

"Five million and five hundred thousand."

"Five million and seven hundred thousand."

Very quickly, the sound of bids endlessly appeared. That was because it was acknowledged by all that a Foundation Building Pill was worth about ten million. Thus, everyone was still very enthusiastically bidding, and the price was still very far from the limits they had set in their hearts.

The Eldest Imperial Prince also began to place bids. Unfortunately, his status was completely useless in the current scenario. No one would be retreating simply because he was the one bidding.

"Ten million!" Within only two minutes, the price of first Foundation Building Pill had reached ten million.

From this moment on, there were obviously fewer bidders, because this was very near to the real value of the Foundation Building Pills. Moreover, there were still eight left, so they need not compete so desperately yet.

After a few more rounds of bidding, the first Foundation Building Pill was finally auctioned off for thirteen million. The winning bidder was an old man from the Li Clan of the Eight Great Clans. His cultivation level was at the peak of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and it was obvious from the delight on his face that he had bought it for his own use.

If he was fortunate, when he went into seclusion, he would come out as an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

Spiritual Ocean and Spiritual Pedestal Tiers were two completely different levels.

"Your Imperial Highness, if you intend to buy the Foundation Building Pills, it would be best if you act soon. In my opinion, the more things drag on, the higher the price would be," Ling Han said to the Eldest Imperial Prince. "The rarer something is, the greater its value."

Chapter 186: Swift Cloud Talisman

The auction continued. Following right after were a couple of paintings and calligraphy works, as well as some ornaments. They were not really important for martial artists, but could be used as a way to refresh the mind and a source of amusement. Besides these, there were also some martial arts and cultivation techniques. However, these tended to be too low in grade, and so did not get a very good price.

After about half an hour, bidding began for the second Foundation Building Pill.

The atmosphere immediately became fired up, and not only did the bid very quickly exceed ten million, the final price was fixed at fifteen million, almost fifty percent higher than the first pill!

The expression on the Eldest Imperial Prince's face turned a bit ugly. If things went on in this manner, then it was really possible that he may not be able to buy even one Foundation Building Pill. He thus secretly made his decision. He would try his absolute best to get the third Foundation Building Pill.

When Ling Han saw this, he could not help but shake his head. He believed that, with the accumulated emotions from the earlier two rounds of bidding, the third Foundation Building Pill would definitely go for an astronomical price and become a minor climax of this auction.

"Everyone, the next auction item are these three Swift Cloud Talismans." The auctioneer drank a sip of water to moisten his throat and once again began to announce loudly, "These are three Swift Cloud Talismans. If one attaches on to their body, it will increase their speed by ten times at most, and the effects would last for about ten minutes."

His eyes swept over the surrounding people. "According to the estimation of the appraiser of our Pavilion, the higher your

cultivation level, the less the speed increase would be. A martial artist in Spiritual Pedestal Tier would be able to increase their speed by only about two times, while a martial artist in Element Gathering Tier can increase their speed by ten times. It has no effect on one in Flower Blossoming Tier."

A martial artist in Flower Blossoming Tier could soar to the skies, so it was natural that there would be no effect. And the higher one's cultivation level, the faster one would be, so it was natural that the lesser the speed increase would be. This was understandable.

Ling Han could not help but become interested, and sat up straight. This, however, made Hu Niu very displeased, because she had to change her position on his lap.

Spirit Talismans could be taken as a different kind of Spirit Tool as they were also similarly engraved with the martial intent of a martial artist. However, the material used to sustain the martial intent was a one-use item. Once a talisman was attached to one's body, it would begin working and this was an irreversible, unstoppable process. Even if you used it for only a short while, its effects would end only once the talisman had been completely expended.

However, Spirit Talismans were far harder to create than normal Spirit Tools, because unlike Spirit Tools that needed the user's own Origin Power to activate them and would not be activated if the user did not have enough Origin Power, Spirit Talismans did not have this problem. Once it was attached to your body, its effects would definitely be activated without exception.

Of course, some Spirit Talismans that were too dominating and, with the instillation of a terrifying amount of power into the user's body, could actually shatter the user's body, were nothing too rare either.

These three Spirit Talismans... he decided he wanted them.

Firstly, he could study the martial intent of these Spirit Talismans, and secondly, they could give him a speed burst of ten times his usual speed. This, for the current him, was very significant, and may even save his life in the future.

For Ling Han, as long as he was alive, he would be able to perform miracles, and would be able to get his own back.

"The three Swift Cloud Talismans will be auctioned off all at once. The base price is five million," the auctioneer announced.

The base price of five million was enough to compare to the base price of a Foundation Building Pill, and it was obvious that in the eyes of the Spirit Treasure Pavilion, they were also an extremely rare, precious item. The reason why they were not left till the end of the auction was most likely because the Pavilion feared that everyone would spend all their money on the Foundation Building Pills.

"Five million and one hundred thousand." Someone placed a bid, but the increase in price was not very high.

In the Imperial City, who dared to commit murder? Thus, the price of the Swift Cloud Talismans was far below their estimated price. After all, members of the Great Clans need not go out and risk their lives and would still be able to get enough resources for cultivation, while those who came from a commoner background... would not be able to produce five million.

"Five million and two hundred thousand."

"Five million and three hundred thousand."

The bidding went very slowly, and could not be compared to the earlier fiery bidding for the Foundation Building Pill at all.

"Ten million!" Right at this moment, a lazy voice was heard, yet it was practically earth-shattering, causing a numbness to everyone's hearts.

What profligate young master was this that he would spend his

money in this way? He's really trying to bring ruin to his father.

Everyone turned their eyes to the private room on the third floor. Quite a number of people looked surprised, because they had heard the Eldest Imperial Prince's voice earlier on from there. This was still understandable. Who knows, perhaps the Spirit Treasures Pavilion thought that the Eldest Imperial Prince had the highest chances to inherit the throne and so gave him a private room on the third floor.

But now, this voice was not familiar at all, so who could it be? Who was it that not only could sit in a private room on the third floor, but could also spare such a shocking amount of money on his first bid?

Sun Zi Yan's eyes instantly narrowed. He naturally recognized that it was Ling Han's voice.

This brat actually had so much money.

True, if he did not have so much money, how could he be able to open up so many stores and compete with the Chen Clan, even at a loss?

"There is now a chance for you to save the business of your Clan," he said to Chen Yun Xiang.

The old man considered slightly then quickly understood, and said, "Zi Yan, you mean I should compete in bidding with him and force him to spend more money?"

"That's right. The two of you are now competing, and if that brat spends an extra million, that would mean you would earn an extra million," Sun Zi Yan said coldly.

"All right!" Chen Yun Xiang gritted his teeth. "I will go full-force ahead today and fight to the end with that bastard!"

"Eleven million!" he called out loudly.

"Hiss..." The surroundings erupted in a clamor. Eleven million

was not the highest price today, but to spend so much money for three talismans that "did not have much use"... wasn't that a bit idiotic?

"Is it that old dog?" Ling Han murmured. He naturally recognized Chen Yun Xiang's voice. "Then let me scare you to death!" He raised his voice, and called out, "Twenty million!"

"Pu!"

Everyone choked. This was already not just a spoilt young master bringing ruin to his father, it was practically deranged enough to bring ruin to his ancestors. Not even the Eight Great Clans could afford to have such a character that would spend money like this, right?

"Young Master Han, do you really have so much money?" the Eldest Imperial Prince asked curiously. Though he knew that Ling Han could have a very powerful background, he did not think that the former could really produce such an exorbitant sum of money as twenty million so easily.

"That's all right. Doesn't Your Imperial Highness have twenty million with you?" Ling Han asked jokingly.

The Eldest Imperial Prince almost jumped up from his seat. This brat actually had his eye on his money? Though he did want to gain Ling Han's support, but if you were talking about simply giving him such an astronomical sum of money of twenty million, even he would break out in a cold sweat.

Moreover, if he spent the twenty million on those three pieces of scrap paper, how was he going to bid for his Foundation Building Pill?

"Young Master Han, don't joke around," he said, rubbing off the cold sweat from his forehead.

Ling Han laughed, but did not explain, causing both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan to cover their mouths and laugh softly. This brat

had merely concocted alchemical pills at the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion and had already collected eighteen million in the form of observation fees. Moreover, he was the one who had concocted the Foundation Building Pills, and their combined price would definitely total up to over one hundred million.

Twenty million was merely a drop in the ocean.

In a private room on the second floor, Sun Zi Yan smirked coldly and said, "See, in just a few moments, you have earned twenty million. Raise your bid, continue the bidding!"

Meanwhile, Chen Yun Xiang had erupted into a cold sweat. From that uncaring tone of Ling Han, it was as if twenty million was pocket change to him, but for the Chen Clan, although twenty million was not an overwhelmingly large amount of money, they really did not have so much cash. They would have to sell off some of their property to get that amount of cash.

If he continued to bid, he was really afraid that his heart would not be able to take the continuous shocks.

But when he thought about Ling Han's forceful attitude, Chen Yun Xiang gritted his teeth and declared, "Twenty one million!"

At this, everyone finally understood. He was deliberately raising the bid!

Chapter 187: Credit Limit of 1 Billion

The Eldest Imperial Prince breathed out a gasp of relief. The other bidder had finally raised the bid and now, his 20 million was safe.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "Old dog, if I suddenly changed my mind and decided not to continue bidding now, would you instantly faint from the shock?"

"Heng, that is only a mere 20 million. It's not a big enough sum of money yet that I would consider it seriously!" In such a public setting, there was no way that Chen Yun Xiang would abandon his face and cower, so he instantly calmed his heart and countered in a steady tone.

"This esteemed guest of the third floor, are you going to make a bid? If you are not, then please do not interrupt," the auctioneer reminded.

"Of course, I am. Money is merely an earthly possession." Ling Han smiled. "30 million!"

"Pu!"

The Eldest Imperial Prince had just taken a sip of tea to calm himself down from such a scare, but when he heard the bid of 30 million, he instantly spat out the mouthful he had just drank. Thankfully, he managed to turn his head in the nick of time. Otherwise, if he had actually spat out the mouthful of tea on the female attendant waiting on him, then his reputation would really be completely ruined.

"Cough, cough, cough!" He coughed uncontrollably, his whole face completely red, and said, "Young Master Han, did you just make a bid of 30 million?"

"That's right. I assumed that, with the wealth of Your Imperial Highness, a loan of 30 million would simply be a light drizzle to

you," Ling Han said, laughing.

Drizzle your sister! That was 30 million silver coins we're talking about here, not 30 million drops of rain!

"Young Master Han, are you trying to kill me?" the Eldest Imperial Prince asked grudgingly. If Ling Han was not able to produce that sum of money, would this debt fall on his head? That was very possible, since they were in the same private room.

30 million... just the thought of it caused the Eldest Imperial Prince's face to turn black. He would be able to earn only 10 million after five years.

"Hehe!" Ling Han smiled, but did not explain.

In the private room on the second floor, Sun Zi Yan laughed loudly, and said, "This spoilt profligate master, how idiotic! He has simply dumped 30 million into the water just like that! Hahahaha, come, continue the bidding!"

Chen Yun Xiang also looked at Sun Zi Yan with hidden bitterness in his eyes. 'One word from you, and I have to increase the bid?' That was 30 million here... if Ling Han really decided not to continue bidding, then he would have to sell off at least one third of the properties under the Chen Clan's ownership.

By that time, he would be even less able to sustain Ling Han's malicious low-priced competition.

"3.... 31 million!" Chen Yun Xiang said through gritted teeth. After making this bid, he could feel his heart was beating unusually fast, as if it was about to jump out of his throat.

He had been alive for so many years, but had never spent 30 million in one go like this. No, he had never even spent 10 million in one go like this. Such a sum caused all the blood to rush to his head, and his face was completely red; it was possible that his head would explode at any moment.

The Eldest Imperial Prince once again let out a breath in relief.

When he stretched out a hand to rub his forehead, there was actually cold sweat on his forehead. 30 million... not just him, maybe even the current Rain Emperor would have to consider seriously before spending such a sum of money.

It was great that there was an idiot who decided to pick up the baton.

He stared at Ling Han and decided that if Ling Han showed any hint of continuing to bid, he would act to stop the latter.

Ling Han smiled. If he decided to stop bidding now, Chen Yun Xiang would definitely want to die. This was a very good opportunity to destroy the Chen Clan, but Ling Han did not want to miss out on those three Swift Cloud Talismans because of this.

"40 million!" As swift as a sudden clap of thunder which leaves no time for covering one's ears, he made a new bid.

With a pa , the chair under the Eldest Imperial Prince's backside actually shattered. This was because he was too agitated, and lost control of his Origin Power that slipped out of his body. The loss of control over his Origin Power actually shattered a chair made of high-grade sandalwood.

"Young Master Han, your joke is too much." The Eldest Imperial Prince shook his head. He was definitely unable to produce an astronomical sum of 40 million. Thus, if the Spirit Treasures Pavilion came forward forcefully to ask for their payment, he would only be able to draw a clear line between himself and Ling Han. Anyways, it was Ling Han who had made the bids, so of course, the money should come from him.

He was feeling on edge here, while over there, Chen Yun Xiang naturally gasped out in relief. This time round, he was not going to increase the bid anymore, no matter what.

When Sun Zi Yan saw this, a cold smile curled up the corners of his lips, and he said, "Mister, I'd like to ask, if one who had made a

bid cannot produce the payment, how would the issue be handled?"

"Naturally, according to the rules of our Pavilion, the offender would have his cultivation completely crippled, and not be allowed to step into the Spirit Treasures Pavilion forever!" the auctioneer immediately replied.

"Good!" Sun Zi Yan humphed coldly, and said, "I suspect that honored guest on the third floor is unable to produce this sum of money, and has been engaging us in a malicious price war all this while!"

"En?" The auctioneer's eyes grew grim. "Since Young Master Sun has spoken such doubts, then let me go to confirm." He turned around and left, walking into the backstage area.

The face of the Eldest Imperial Prince instantly darkened. If they were chased out of here because of involvement in a malicious price war, what would be left of his reputation? Wait, this brat could not have purposely done it, right? Purposely causing public shame to him, and helping his Third Younger Brother to clear all the obstacles in his path?

He had just barely finished that thought, when he saw that the auctioneer had returned. The latter said, "I have just confirmed with one of the senior officials of our Pavilion. That esteemed guest is definitely able to produce 40 million. Additionally, even if that esteemed guest does not have a single copper coin on him, our Pavilion is willing to give him a credit limit of 1 billion."

"Pu! Pu! Pu! Pu!"

Everyone choked, and began to cough uncontrollably.

A credit limit of 1 billion... what kind of concept was that?

Ling Han did not have to spend a single cent and would be able to simply take home an auction item worth 1 billion, as the Spirit Treasures Pavilion would advance funds for him first. Such an

honor.... would even the Clan Heads of the Eight Great Clans be able to enjoy this honor?

The Eldest Imperial Prince was gaping widely in shock, a powerful astonishment in his eyes.

The Spirit Treasures Pavilion looked too highly on Ling Han, didn't they? They not only gave him the use of a private room on the third floor, but even gave him a credit limit of 1 billion. When he thought about it, even he felt extreme envy at such priority treatment.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "Since my wealth is confirmed, then to be fair, your wealth should be confirmed as well. I am also suspicious whether you two are really poor and simply engaging me in a malicious price war."

When these words were heard, Sun Zi Yan and Chen Yun Xiang's expressions instantly changed. They were definitely unable to produce 30 million in cash.

"Heng, I am a member of the Sun Clan. So how could it be possible that I would not be able to produce a mere 30 million?" Sun Zi Yan said very forcefully.

"If these words were spoken by the Clan Head of the Sun Clan, that's fine. But for a mere junior of the Clan, being able to produce 3 million would already be impressive enough." Someone laughed mockingly. It was of course one of Sun Zi Yan's rivals.

"That's right. It must be investigated. Otherwise, it would not be fair!" Another person joined in on the excitement.

A young and quick-tempered person like Sun Zi Yan would have naturally made quite a few enemies. However, most of them would waver in the face of the power of each other's respective Clans and not push the issue. Thus, at this time, there were of course people ready to hit him when he was down.

"Please cooperate, Young Master Sun," the auctioneer said. Since

Ling Han's wealth was confirmed, then it was natural that Sun Zi Yan and Chen Yun Xiang had to be investigated as well. Otherwise, it would not be fair.

The most important thing in the auction was to be fair, and what everyone hated the most was a malicious price war.

Immediately, someone from the Spirit Treasures Pavilion entered into the private room of Sun Zi Yan and Chen Yun Xiang. After a while, the auctioneer said, "From the results of our investigation, the total sum of cash that Young Master Sun and Old Master Chen can pay is 9 million, which is very far from their bid of 30 million."

When these words were heard, quite a number of people smirked coldly. If they were not elites of Spiritual Ocean Tier, and had come specifically for the Foundation Building Pills, who would actually have more than 10 million on them?

This time, Sun Zi Yan had really ruined his whole reputation.

Sun Zi Yan and Chen Yun Xiang were immediately cast out of the Spirit Treasures Pavilion. Because it was Chen Yun Xiang who had made the bids, and he did not have any form of cultivation at all, there was no cultivation to be crippled. However, there was no way that the two of them would be allowed to enter into the Spirit Treasures Pavilion again for the rest of their lives.

Chapter 188: Sky-High Price

Because there was a malicious price war involved, the previous bidding was naturally discarded. Ling Han once again made a bid, and managed to easily purchase the three Swift Cloud Talismans at 10 million.

Practically no one made a counter-bid, because they were all aware of Ling Han's wealth. He did not even blink and simply threw out a bid of 40 million like that, and what was even more terrifying was his credit limit of 1 billion. If anyone actually offended him, then when something that they wanted came up in the auction and Ling Han actually joined in on the bidding, who would be able to compete?

Very soon, a representative from the Spirit Treasures Pavilion delivered the three Swift Cloud Talismans over. As for money, he naturally had no need to pay now—it would be the Spirit Treasures Pavilion who would be giving Ling Han money!

The Eldest Imperial Prince was both astonished and curious. Where had Ling Han gotten so much money from, and how had he gotten such serious attention from the Spirit Treasures Pavilion? He had naturally done his own investigation on Ling Han's background. Aside from that short time period shortly after his birth, this guy was a complete village boy. In the bounds of the Imperial City, the Ling Clan did not even qualify as an actual Clan.

But Ling Han suddenly rose up, and his rise took more or less only about half a year. This was really a miracle that no one could see through at all.

The auction continued. After a few unremarkable small items, the third Foundation Building Pill finally appeared on the stage in a glorious display. The Eldest Imperial Prince finally decided to throw everything into the gamble this time round. However, there were many others who had the same thought as him, and very

quickly, the bidding price of the alchemical pill was pushed up to the high price of 20 million.

The Eldest Imperial Prince could only stare and secretly regret how he had not decisively acted the previous two times. And now, he couldn't even get one pill with his 20 million.

The Spirit Treasures Pavilion seemed to practically sell anything one could think of. Not just alchemical pills and decorative items, they also sold various ingredients, cultivation techniques, and martial arts techniques. There were even treasure maps mixed in. However, there were no Spirit Tools up for auction this time round. Otherwise, Ling Han would really want to get one of his own.

Because the martial arts and cultivation techniques that were on auction were really too low-grade, Ling Han naturally did not have the slightest interest. He was practically nodding off where he was sitting. Anyways, he needed not buy the Foundation Building Pills at all.

The fourth pill, the fifth pill, and the sixth pill were quickly auctioned off. As the number of Foundation Building Pills became less and less, the price became higher and higher. The eighth pill was even auctioned off for the astronomical price of 28 million. That was more than double the price of the first pill.

This caused that elite of Spiritual Ocean Tier from the Li Clan to delightedly laugh for quite some time. Though the price of 13 million caused him to feel heartache earlier on, when compared with the current price, he was naturally happy to have bought it for only that much.

There was only one pill left. Without a doubt, the final bid of this last Foundation Building Pill would definitely break through the price of 30 million!

...Gods know when there would be new Foundation Building Pills again.

"20 million!"

True enough, the base price of 5 million had just been announced when someone immediately placed the high bid of 20 million. It was natural that the last pill would be worth more than 20 million, so what was the point of wasting their time making small bids of less than 20 million?

Ling Han could not help but clap his hands, and said, "I like that kind of person, very straightforward!"

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both covered their mouths and laughed lightly. Who would not like someone who would be delivering money to him?

Meanwhile, the Eldest Imperial Prince was slightly confused. He thought that Ling Han himself was a straightforward person and so admired that kind of person as well, and could not help but ask himself honestly if he were a straightforward person. If he was not, would it be very difficult for him to befriend Ling Han then?

"25 million!" There was quite a number of people with straightforward characters. Another immediately added another 5 million to the bid.

"26 million!"

"27 million!"

"28 million!"

"29 million!"

It was as if the price of 30 million was a new level. After the last bid was shouted out, a silence fell on the crowd. For the moment, none made another bid. The publicly acknowledged price of the Foundation Building Pill was at around 10 million, but because there was no shortage of buyers and no one actually willing to sell it, the astronomical price of over 20 million naturally came about. However, no one's money came falling down from the skies, so they naturally could not simply spend excessively.

Moreover, aside from alchemists, who could actually produce a massive amount of over 10 million? Such an amount would definitely have been the collective savings of a party, so how could it be spent so thoughtlessly?

...The majority of time of martial artists was spent on cultivation, so where would they have the time to earn money? For example, in the Ling Clan, there was a few hundred people working in businesses and earning money to support the few dozens of people in the Clan who could ascend up the path of martial arts and would thus be able to protect the wealth of the Ling Clan.

It was precisely because they were spending the money of their Clans or parties that it was unavoidable that they would hesitate, considering carefully whether or not they should spend such an astronomical sum.

"30 million!" Finally, someone broke the silence. It was an elite of Spiritual Ocean Tier from a middle-class clan.

For the Eight Great Clans, one more Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite would equate to an additional source of peak military power, and was very significant. However, it was not to the extent that there would be any real solid change to their power base. However, for a middle-class clan, if there was a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite in their ranks, that would definitely mean a complete transformation, and allow the Clan to be on a completely different level than previously.

Thus, middle-class clans were more desperate to get the Foundation Building Pill, and were also ready to go to crazier lengths for it.

"41 million!"

"42 million!"

"43 million!"

Finally, only three Clans were left. The eyes of the representatives from these clans were all red and they completely looked like they were ready to throw everything away and spare no expenses just to get their hands on the final Foundation Building Pill.

"Hehe, even after swallowing the Foundation Building Pill, you would only have about 10-20% chance to break through. Why do the two of you have to compete so ferociously with me?" one of them asked.

"Then, why won't Brother Ma allow me to have this chance?" another asked.

"This is a Foundation Building Pill worth thirteen Stars. It's not just a 10-20% chance, but is close to 30%!" The third person humphed coldly. "If you can't afford to make a bid, then don't embarrass yourself!"

"Then let's continue!"

Finally, the price was fixed at 49 million.

Everyone had already guessed that the last Foundation Building Pill would definitely get the highest price, but the price that almost reached 50 million still caused everyone to be dumbstruck. That was how an auction was like. There was no need for too many rich people—as long as there were at least two parties willing to place bids, that would be enough.

Just like how Ling Han and Chen Yun Xiang placed competing bids for the Swift Cloud Talismans, when it caused the price to soar all the way up to 40 million. It was only the fact that Chen Yun Xiang was not able to produce so much cash that the earlier bidding was rendered void.

Ling Han calculated for a moment, and could not help but feel a slight shock himself, because the nine Foundation Building Pills altogether were auctioned off for a price of 225 million! Even after

the service charge of 14% was deducted, that would also be almost double the price of directly selling off 1 pill for 10 million.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan also calculated it and were shocked as well. Such an astronomical number was enough to compare to the annual total income of a Great Clan!

Total income, not total profit!

In other words, Ling Han had earned more than the accumulated earnings of a Great Clan for one year in this single day!

Alchemists really earned too much money.

But that would depend on the person as well. Aside from Ling Han, what other alchemist could concoct these nine Foundation Building Pills without having exploded a few dozen furnaces first? And if it was an Earth Grade alchemist... did an Earth Grade alchemist still need such an earthly item like money?

If an Earth Grade alchemist actually concocted an Earth Grade middle level or even high level treasured pill, then even selling off the whole Rain Country would not be enough!

The auction this time round ended smoothly, and Ling Han went to the backstage to settle his bill—the Eldest Imperial Prince naturally thought he had gone to pay the money for his three Swift Cloud Talismans, and would have never imagined that Ling Han had gone to receive his money. Moreover, the sum that he was receiving was enough to cause even an Imperial Prince like him to stop breathing.

"Young Master Han, the nine Foundation Building Pills have been auctioned off for a total of 225 million, and subtracting the 14% service charge, as well as the 10 million that you have withdrawn in advance earlier on, there is still 183 million and 500 thousand left." Jia Bo Yun handed over a stack of monetary notes to Ling Han. So much money naturally could not possibly be paid in gold.

He already knew that Ling Han was about to become a Black

Grade high level alchemist, and could even possibly step into Earth Grade, and so he used a respectful address for him, hoping that Ling Han could concoct an Earth Grade pill that could help a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite to break through. Otherwise, with his status, there was no need for him to be so respectful to this extent.

Ling Han smiled and received the money from him. He did not even spare it a second look and simply put it away. He knew that the other would not dare to embezzle his money.

Chapter 189: Contemplating the Tenth Nucleus

As the auction ended, everyone naturally returned home. Those who had managed to buy items they liked were naturally happy, while those who had not went home sighing and shaking their heads. Ling Han, meanwhile, was the biggest winner of today, having received a massive wealth of close to 200 million. If this news was actually spread out, then there may actually people who attempted to rob him on his way back. If they actually managed to succeed, there would be no need to worry about money for the rest of their lives.

Thankfully, there did not appear any such blind people.

When he returned to Hu Yang Academy, Ling Han went to bed. There was not much difference between 100 or 200 million and scrap paper in his eyes, so there was no need for him to keep counting his money like some kind of miser.

Early the next morning, he naturally woke up to cultivate as per usual. His advancement rate was too fast by now. He had just broken through to the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier two days ago, yet now he was already close to the late period of the ninth layer. There was only one more step left and he would be in the peak period, ready to attempt breaking through to Gushing Spring Tier.

'Should I try out that ?' Ling Han pondered, after he was done cultivating.

In his last life, he had ventured into a considerable number of historical sites, and had naturally managed to obtain quite a number of cultivation and martial arts techniques, as well as a few personal letters that he suspected had been written by an elite of Shattering Void Tier. There was a certain possibility mentioned in these letters.

Tenth layer of Element Gathering Tier!

Nine was the utmost number of this world, so nine was considered the top of everything in this world. The king of yesterday and tomorrow referred to the Emperors of the mortal world. It was the same in the field of martial arts; whether it was from Body Refining Tier or all the way to Heaven Tier, the ninth layer was considered the top level that one could aspire to.

And from Body Refining to Heaven Tier, there were also actually nine tiers. The last Shattering Void Tier would break one's mortal shackles, and was the step that would allow one to shatter the void to become a god. It was a bridge that connected to the other shore, and could be considered as the evasive one.

However, there was an ancient almighty character that had mentioned that, in fact, one could actually still cultivate to the extreme layer in every tier, until perfection.

The notes that Ling Han had obtained only mentioned that it was possible to form the tenth Origin Nucleus in Element Gathering Tier, break the limit of nine and catch the evasive one and really obtain perfection.

The benefits of such a thing were endless.

One had to understand that after Element Gathering Tier, what lay ahead was Gushing Spring Tier, and in this tier, the martial artist would transform the Origin Nuclei he had into springs that gushed out Origin Power in his Dantian. After Gushing Spring Tier was Spiritual Ocean Tier, which was to transform these springs into endless oceans of Origin Power.

Spiritual Pedestal, Flower Blossoming, Spiritual Infant, Deity Transformation... all the subsequent tiers were closely related to this. From this aspect, the Element Gathering Tier was actually the foundation of one's path of martial arts, and had far-reaching consequences.

...Body Refining Tier was only to refine one's blood and flesh, bones and tendons, while only in Element Gathering would one open up his Dantian, and could finally be considered as having officially stepped onto the path of a cultivator.

As a result, to be able to reach the ultimate limits of a mortal body in Element Gathering Tier and reach perfection would have benefits that would last for the rest of one's lifetime.

The problem here was that that ancient almighty person had only mentioned that it was theoretically possible, but had not managed to accomplish it himself. It was because he had returned to consider this issue only after he had reached a very high cultivation level. However, time was irreversible, so he could not possibly return to Element Gathering Tier to once again begin cultivating.

There was a large lapse in the history of the martial arts of this land, and there was also a large number of alchemical pill formulae that had been lost in the passage of time. It was likely that some unknown massive catastrophe happened in the era of that almighty person. Anyways, his theory had never been spread out and known by others, not to mention attempted. It was thus lost in the pages of history—until the notes came to be discovered by Ling Han.

For the Ling Han of that time, these notes naturally did not have much use. However, who would have thought that his body would have been shattered by the black tower, and his soul, after 10 000 years, would be reborn in the body of a young man, which gave him an opportunity to start again from the beginning?

'It seems like, in a mysterious way, this was destined.' Ling Han pinched his chin, obviously a bit hesitant.

Forming the tenth nucleus was nothing to play around with. Nine was the ultimate limit, and was an absolute balance. However, if he decided to push in by force the tenth nucleus, that

would undoubtedly shatter this delicate balance, and could possibly lead to a terrible disaster.

Otherwise, after so many generations of elites and geniuses, why had no one ever thought of the possibility of ten nuclei, or even twenty?

This naturally showed how difficult it was to actually take this step, or perhaps even how impossible a feat it seemed.

'Forget it, I'll reach the peak period of the ninth layer, then consider it again.' Ling Han shook his head, and did not continue to waste his time pondering this issue.

By afternoon, he received a piece of good news and a piece of bad news.

The good news was that Mo Gao had come out of seclusion, and had successfully ascended to Gushing Spring Tier.

"Teacher Mo, congratulations for breaking through." Ling Han sensed a powerful wave of Origin Power and immediately rushed over to Mo Gao's courtyard. True enough, he very quickly saw Mo Gao walk out of his house. Though he looked a little disheveled, his essence, energy, and spirit were shockingly strong.

"Hahahaha, after ten plus years of delay, I finally broke through," Mo Gao said a bit ruefully.

"I believe that, with Teacher Mo's intent focus on the art of the sword, you will be able to easily break through the obstacles on your path of martial arts and enter into an even higher cultivation level," Ling Han said, smiling. This was not an exaggeration on his part. With a Sword Heart that was almost formed, Mo Gao's path of cultivation would definitely be smooth and easy from this point onwards. As the saying goes, a great talent matures slowly, and Mo Gao would definitely experience a huge burst.

Mo Gao smiled faintly. As a martial artist, how could he not desire to ascend to a higher cultivation level? It was just that when

compared with advancement in cultivation level, he was more passionate about the art of the sword. Now that his Sword Heart was forming, and his cultivation level was also raised, he had nothing to be displeased about.

"You, your cultivation!" Mo Gao's expression suddenly changed and he pointed at Ling Han, shock filling his features.

Ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier!

He suddenly had a feeling like he was about to faint. When Ling Han had just come here, he was only in the fifth layer of Element Gathering, and just how much time had passed? Just barely a month, and this guy was already in the ninth layer of Element Gathering now. Most likely, it would not be too long before Ling Han would be able to catch up to and even surpass him.

What a monster.

Ling Han nodded, and said, "The advancement in cultivation level is indeed a bit slow." He sighed.

'Poser!'

Even with his training in Sword Heart, Mo Gao could not help but want to curse. This brat was really too much of a poser.

"Get lost!" he said irritably.

Ling Han laughed loudly and left—Mo Gao had just broken through, so he needed some time to stabilize his position in the cultivation level.

The bad news, meanwhile, was brought by Liu Yu Tong.

Actually, this piece of news was expected, though it had come a bit later than he had predicted.

Those clothing shops that Ling Han had opened had all been robbed or damaged the night before. Now, the doors were broken open, the clothes were either robbed or torn to pieces. Not one of them was in a state to re-open.

Obviously, this was the beginning of the counterattack by Chen Yun Xiang, or perhaps Sun Zi Yan.

Since the peaceful resolution had failed the day before, they had immediately started to act the night before. Most probably, they had used the power of the Earth and Water Faction. After all, it was very easy for those hooligans to do this kind of job.

"Now what do we do?" Liu Yu Tong asked Ling Han.

"Since the opponent is not willing to follow the rules, then we can also only resort to force." Ling Han smiled faintly.

Liu Yu Tong was stunned, and said, "You want to charge to the Chen Clan? You can't! Sun Zi Yan must have guessed that you would do so. The Chen Clan would definitely be heavily guarded today, and there may even be imperial guards present. If you actually come to blows with the imperial guards, no one would be able to save you!"

The imperial guards represented the Imperial Family, so there was no difference between coming to blows with the imperial guards and committing treason.

Ling Han grinned, then said, "Since that grandson wants to play, then let's just join him in his game. Anyways, I'm quite free right now! Let's go to the Earth and Water Faction first, and first deal with this group of lackeys."

Liu Yu Tong was even dizzier at this, and said, "The Faction Leader of the Earth and Water Faction, Yang Tian Du, is in the Spiritual Ocean Tier!"

"En, so we have to go to the Heaven Military Hall first," Ling Han said with a smile.

Chapter 190: Force Sale

There were many lone cultivators in Rain Country, and they did not have any party behind them to support them. However, cultivation was a very expensive venture, so then, where did they get their money from?

Naturally, through working for others.

For example, they may choose to serve as guards for travelling merchants or collect bounties after killing some villainous characters or gather ingredients that their employer required. As time passed, there was a place and organization that was specifically formed for lone cultivators to get missions, and that was the Heaven Military Hall.

Anyone could enter the Heaven Military Hall. One only had to register his personal information, and would be then able to obtain missions and begin his way to earn money. Of course, the Heaven Military Hall was even more welcoming of the wealthy to post missions here. It was a bit like the auctioneer's house. After a mission had been completed, the Heaven Military Hall would collect a portion of the rewards as fee for their service.

Lone cultivators, as their name suggested, usually moved alone and were thus like a sheet of loose sand. However, if they actually managed to cooperate with each other, they would become a party that should not be taken lightly. Thus, in the process of the formation of the Heaven Military Hall, there was also involvement of the Imperial Family. They were not only able to take a share of the profits, they also sent out a large amount of manpower as surveillance to avoid someone secretly gathering these lone cultivators together to become a force that could threaten the authority of the Imperial Family over the country.

Thus, the Heaven Military Hall has become more and more official, and there was an increasing government-approved quality

about the place.

However, there were still some things that were not appropriate to be registered on the records. There were some who would be receiving their mission requests in the underground, but that would mean there was no security provided. It was possible that the employer may not pay for the completed mission, or it could also be possible that even after completing the mission, there was no money received. One could only bear the risks on his own.

There was only one rule in Heaven Military Hall: everything could be done if there was enough money.

Ling Han went to the bank first to cash in his monetary notes, then headed towards the Eastern part of the Imperial City. That was where the Heaven Military Hall was located.

Liu Yu Tong followed at Ling Han's heels, a worried frown over her face. Though the Earth and Water Faction had a bad name, as if they were detested gutter rats, the Faction Leader was an authentic Spiritual Ocean Tier elite. If one wanted to oppose this kind of powerful character, there was definitely a need to at least get the help of one elite of Spiritual Ocean Tier, or perhaps even a few.

Once one managed to reach the high level of Spiritual Ocean Tier, would a martial artist still need to be a mercenary? He could simply join a powerful party and take the position of an Elder and would only need to cultivate every day. It was even fine if he decided to laze around and not cultivate; he only needed to step out and take action occasionally whenever he was needed.

And what was the point of hiring a few hundred Gushing Spring Tier martial artists? Against an opponent in a high layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier, they would only be mowed over in a single move.

Hu Niu, meanwhile, was completely carefree, running all over the place, playing and laughing.

"Damn girl, where's your guardian!" An angered voice was heard, attracting Ling Han's attention. The voice belonged to a sturdy man who had a streetside stall, and who was currently shouting angrily at Hu Niu.

Apparently, Hu Niu had bumped into some of his merchandise, but that was also because he himself had taken up too much space, and had placed his merchandise all the way onto the street, making it unavoidable for those who wanted to pass to actually have to circle around his stall. The little girl, due to a moment of inattention, bumped into a few of his items.

Hu Niu was naturally not easily bullied. She bared her teeth and glared back at the sturdy man, her ferocious nature on full display.

Ling Han walked over, rubbed Hu Niu's head, and asked, "What is it?"

"Your little girl made my things fall over, so you must pay the compensation!" the sturdy man said, his stare fixed on Ling Han. While he spoke, four similarly tough-looking men stepped out behind him. They all crossed their arms in front of their chests, smirking coldly.

Ling Han understood now. That man must have deliberately arranged his merchandise in such a way that they would cover a large part of the street. Once anyone accidentally bumped into his merchandise, he would take advantage of the opportunity and jump out immediately to ask for compensation. The other four men were naturally his accomplices, and were there to add pressure to his threats.

Ling Han's eyes swept over the merchandise that the man had laid out. They were all counterfeit items. Some of what looked to be ginseng was actually mere carrots that had been joined with the top of a ginseng root. Some gold items were worthless, as their insides were filled with brass, and the joint was very obvious, so how could they possibly deceive his eyes?

He was just about to give these five people a little lesson when his eyes were attracted by a strangely shaped rock, and he could not help but ask, "What is the price of this rock?"

The stall keeper was about to fly into a rage, but when he saw that Ling Han seemed interested in buying one of his merchandise, he could not help but smile, and answered, "I'll give you a cheaper price, 1000 silver coins."

"1000 silver coins? He's gone crazy from wanting money, hasn't he?"

"That's right. That's just a piece of worthless scrap. Even if it was an excellent Rain Flower Stone, or a Heaven Song Stone, that kind of size would only be worth about a hundred plus silver coins."

"Hush, they're from the Earth and Water Faction. You mustn't enrage them!"

"They're always here bullying the locals, and no one will actually step out to handle them!"

There were some passersby who could no longer stand by and watch and immediately spoke out in rebuke, but there were others who revealed the identities of the five hooligans and advised them to watch what they said.

"F*****, if you guys dare speak any more nonsense, I'll chop you all to death!" The stall keeper glared and showed off a fierce expression. The four men behind him all smirked coldly. Those who had spoken up in rebuke shivered, and indeed, they did not dare to speak any longer.

"Brother, this is an Exquisite Spirit Stone. Just look at how bizarrely shaped it is. It is an odd item that has been naturally formed in this way!" the stall keeper boasted.

"I don't like it!" Ling Han shook his head. After he found out that these people were from the Earth and Water Faction, he had the impulse to play a terrible joke on them.

"Don't like it?" The stall keeper laughed coldly. "If you don't like it, then why had you asked about it? Are you trying to play around with me? It's too late now. Whether you like it or not, you'll have to buy it now!"

"What a bully!"

"How can he force a sale like this!"

"Who asked them to be from the Earth and Water Faction? In the past, someone had previously reported the crime, but when the imperial guards came, it was completely useless. Instead, the imperial guards chatted and joked around with them."

At the side, there were some who had began exclaiming in rebuke about the injustice, but there were some "experienced" locals who revealed the truth of the matter helplessly. These local ruffians were completely secure, knowing that they had backing.

Ling Han pretended to be scared, and asked, "I'm not buying, are you going to beat me up then?"

"Heng, this little girl pushed over a few of my items, and you wasted my time. If you buy this rock, then we'll forget all about the matter. Otherwise... hehe!" The stallkeeper gave a signal, and the four men behind him simultaneously pulled out a dagger each and began to play with it. The threat was more than obvious.

"Don't be hasty!" Ling Han waved his hands hurriedly and said, "I'll buy it, then."

"Good!" The stallkeeper smiled coldly. When he saw Ling Han behaving so weakly and so easily bullied, his greed could not help but swell, and he said, "The price has risen now, it's 2000 silver coins!" He glared fiercely at Ling Han, and asked, "What is it? You don't want to pay?"

"Here," Ling Han said as he handed over two monetary notes, each worth 1000 silver coins.

"Hahahaha!" The stall keeper laughed pompously. This brat had

to be a fool from some rich family; he actually handed over the money so obediently.

"Is this rock mine, now?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

"It's yours! It's yours!" the stall keeper waved him off. He had discovered this rock in his backyard a few days ago. Because it was very weirdly shaped, and had a bit of ornamental value, he had taken it out to sell it. His initial motive was naturally to deceive some fool into buying it off him, but he never thought that he would actually be able to sell it off for 2000 silver coins.

Liu Yu Tong watched the entire scene and could not help but feel secretly confused. With Ling Han's ability, handling these five local ruffians was naturally as easy as a piece of cake, but why had he deliberately allowed himself to be fooled?

Ling Han laughed and gave a light tap on the rock. With the force of his Origin Power, pa , there instantly appeared a few cracks on the surface of the rock. He lightly broke the pieces apart, and as the crushed pieces of rock fell, there actually appeared a flicker of gold light from within.

"Yi?" Everyone could not help but turn to look.

Chapter 191: The Golden Flower of the Stone

Ling Han broke the rock apart in a few moves, and the golden light became stronger and stronger, before finally becoming a ball of resplendent light, so bright that it was not possible to open one's eyes to look at it.

But the golden light very quickly paled and darkened, and in Ling Han's hand, there shockingly appeared a golden plant. It looked like a chrysanthemum; the whole flower was sparkling and translucent, possessing an indescribable beauty to it.

"Yi!"

"Ah!"

"Oh!"

Everyone was exclaiming in shock. There was actually such a strange object growing inside a rock. No matter what it was, it was really inconceivable.

"Return this flower to me!" the stall keeper instantly shouted, his eyes red. Even if he had no idea what it was, he would have been able to guess that a plant growing within a rock was definitely an extraordinary treasure and not something that can be bought with a mere 2000 silver coins.

He had finally understood by now. Ling Han had only pretended to be scared previously, but in fact, he had already had his eye fixed on this rock.

This detestable brat!

Ling Han only pretended he had not heard anything, and asked Hu Niu, "Niu Niu, do you know what this is?"

Hu Niu sniffed it a few times, and instantly, put on a disinterested expression, and said, "It's not delicious!"

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "This is called the Golden

Flower of the Stone. It is formed through gathering Spiritual Qi from its surroundings and can only grow within this kind of Stone of Nine Poisons. It has the effect of curing poison. Only a tiny little petal would be enough to cure many of the poisons of this world. The stem is even more outstanding, as it can cure any poison."

"Brother, this Golden Flower of the Stone is probably worth a lot, right?" one of the spectators asked.

"Of course." Ling Han nodded. "It is unavoidable for martial artists to enter into areas that are filled with powerful poison to adventure, and merely placing a single petal of the Golden Flower of the Stone in one's mouth would allow one to resist many poisons. Tell me, how much do you think it's worth?"

"A petal is worth 10,000 silver coins?" someone asked, his voice shaking.

"10,000 coins?" Ling Han shook his head with a smile, and said, "The rewards would naturally be overwhelmingly large if one actually had to enter such a dangerous location on an adventure. It would be nothing strange to spend several million, or even several dozen million just to prepare for such a journey. As a result, a single petal of this flower would be worth 100,000 coins, at the very least."

There was a simultaneous sharp intake of breath from all around them. A price of at least 100,000 coins... that was really too terrifying, because this Golden Flower of the Stone had exactly how many petals? At the very least, there were a few hundred petals there... then that would be worth about a few dozen million!

Moreover, the stem could apparently cure any conceivable poison, so it was naturally worth even more money.

"Hahahaha, brat, give me back my Golden Flower of the Stone!" The stall keeper was also listening to Ling Han's explanation just now, and now that he knew the astronomical value of this golden flower, he was both shocked and delighted. He was secretly

laughing at Ling Han for being an idiot, to actually reveal the existence of such a treasure in the public, and was also secretly delighted inside his heart. He was really going to make a huge amount of money this time round.

"Is there something wrong with you?" Ling Han smiled calmly. "This is already mine, so what does it have to do with you?"

"This is your money, I'm giving it back!" The stall keeper threw out two monetary notes. "Now, give my back my Golden Flower of the Stone!"

"The transaction has been completed, so this item is naturally mine. And I have no intention to sell it off to you," Ling Han said seriously.

"Haha, who would dare not to sell me something that I, Ruan Shi Zhong, want?" The stall keeper smirked, and stretched out a hand towards Ling Han's neck.

Hu Niu moved. One smack from her, and with a peng , Ruan Shi Zhong was instantly flung away, crashing heavily into a wall before slowly sliding down it. He had actually been smacked unconscious.

Everyone was astonished. How could a little girl who was only about 5-6 years old have such powerful strength?

Ling Han grabbed a piece of cloth and wrapped the Golden Flower of the Stone in it. In such a public area, he dared not reveal the secret of the Spatial Ring. He turned to look at the other four ruffians, and asked with a smile, "Are you guys planning to snatch my stuff, too?"

The four men hurriedly shook their heads, a layer of cold sweat collecting on their foreheads.

Ruan Shi Zhong was the strongest of the five of them. He was in the eighth layer of Body Refining Tier, and was actually smacked unconscious so easily by a little snip of a girl, so it was predictable

that this young man would be even more remarkable.

He was definitely playing the pig to eat the tiger just now, definitely pretending to be harmless previously to fool them!

Just now, this guy deliberately showed his fear, and was only trying to toy around with them. Now, they had, with their own hands, sold off a priceless treasure for the cheap price of 2000 coins. Whenever they recalled this in the future, they would definitely grieve and lament, with an increasing urge to commit suicide. To them, this was the heaviest kind of punishment.

No wonder this brat revealed the Golden Flower of the Stone in public; he was trying to provoke them.

Damn him!

Ling Han held onto Hu Niu's hand and left proudly. Liu Yu Tong smiled, because she knew that Ling Han must have noticed something about the rock to put on such an act.

The two adults and one child left very quickly, leaving behind the envious and impressed gazes of the crowd.

"Big Brother Shi Zhong!" The four ruffians hurriedly went to help Ruan Shi Zhong up. After pinching his Ren Zhong and pouring cold water on him, they finally managed to pull Ruan Shi Zhong back to consciousness.

"Ah!" Ruan Shi Zhong shouted loudly. "My treasure!" He suddenly jumped up from the ground, and realized that there were people looking at him from all around, wearing expressions that showed they were enjoying his misfortune. He could not help but flush brightly at this, both humiliated and enraged.

"Big Brother Shi Zhong, what do we do now?" the four ruffians asked.

Ruan Shi Zhong thought for a moment, then said, "Two of you follow that brat and see where he's going. The other two of you will come back with me and ask Hall Leader Ai to step out and

snatch back the treasure!"

"But, Big Brother Shi Zhong, if we ask for Hall Leader Ai's help, the bigger share will definitely have to go to him!" one of the ruffians said cautiously.

Pa , Ruan Shi Zhong gave him a slap and rebuked him, "Are you an idiot? If we don't get Hall Leader Ai to deal with that brat, we won't get anything at all. If Hall Leader Ai manages to snatch back the treasure, then we'd at least get something."

"Right, right, right. Big Brother Shi Zhong is indeed clever." The four ruffians nodded in agreement.

"Then let's go!" Ruan Shi Zhong glared at them.

"What about the things here?" One of the ruffians pointed at the items still laid out in the stall.

"They're not worth much anyways. Moreover, who would dare to steal my stuff?"

The five of them immediately went off on their respective missions. Two followed behind Ling Han, while the other three went off to get help. How could they bear to simply let the matter go when it involved a treasure that was worth a few dozen million?

"Young Master Han, there's someone following us," Liu Yu Tong said suddenly.

"Just let them follow. When there's enough of them later, I'll deal with them in one go," Ling Han said, smiling.

"Niu wants to beat up ten!" Hu Niu said excitedly. The little girl had grown up by the side of a ferocious beast, and her wild nature was very dominant a part of her personality. She was especially fond of violence.

"All right!" Ling Han laughed. There was an extremely weird Spirit Base in the body of this little girl. In the future, even the whole world could possibly tremble because of her, what more just

to beat up ten people.

Liu Yu Tong could not help but roll her eyes. Ling Han actually taught Hu Niu like this... wasn't he just egging her on to do whatever she liked?

As they walked, they soon arrived at the Heaven Military Hall.

This was indeed a lively place. There was a great hall that was a dazzling sight, while a square-shaped plaza surrounded it on all sides. There was a large number of people on this plaza, and there were even some who were holding on to signs for recruitment, in order to form a group to complete a mission.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "Let's hold up signs for recruitment as well!"

They never imagined that buying a sign here would be so expensive—the seller actually quoted a price of ten silver coins. Ling Han did not mind, but Liu Yu Tong could not bear wasting money so pointlessly and glared furiously at the seller for quite a while.

Ling Han began to write on the sign in his good penmanship. Then he tied it in a fixed position on a rock.

Instantly, he became the focus of everyone's attention.

Chapter 192: Going to the Earth and Water Faction for a Walk

That was because the words written on the sign that Ling Han had put up were indeed a bit shocking.

"Recruiting people to go to the Earth and Water Faction for a fight. Rewards are as follows: Gushing Spring Tier, 10,000 silver coins per day, Spiritual Ocean Tier, 100,000 silver coins per day, Element Gathering Tier need not apply."

Go to the Earth and Water Faction for a fight?

What kind of a place was the Earth and Water Faction? It had a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite to oversee things, and was at the same level as a middle-class clan. Going there to fight, then that would mean having to stand against a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite! There were only so many Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites in Rain Country, and underneath Spiritual Pedestal Tier, the strongest would be Spiritual Ocean Tier. Who would dare go to make trouble?

However, on the other hand, the rewards that Ling Han promised were indeed enough of a shock themselves. A Gushing Spring Tier martial artist would be able to earn 10,000 in one day, while a Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist could earn 100,000 per day.

Earning 100,000 per day; that would mean earning 3 million in a single month. What kind of unbelievable concept was that?

Even if it was a Great Clan like one of the Eight Great Clans, their net monthly income would not exceed 10 million. And now a single person would be able to earn 3 million. That was comparable to one third of the monthly income of a Great Clan. How shocking was that?

Moreover, the Eight Great Clans were only able to earn so much profit because they had Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites in their ranks,

and now three Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists would be able to earn about the same amount!

All of a sudden, this attracted the attention of a lot of people, but all of them were merely watching. None actually approached to get the exact details of the mission. After all, Ling Han was really much too young. Who would believe that he would be able to produce such a massive sum of money? Moreover, the Earth and Water Faction was nothing to play around with.

Thus, everyone merely chose to stand by and watch at this point in time.

"You can't simply set up a sign here. If the contract has not obtained the acknowledgement and guarantee of the Heaven Military Hall, everyone will not believe that you really have such wealth," Liu Yu Tong reminded.

"All right, then. Let's go inside then." Ling Han strode towards the Heaven Military Hall.

He came to a free window, and said, "I would like to post a mission."

"Young Master, what mission would you like to post?" the young girl who was in charge of registering missions asked. She was quite a pretty girl.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "Going to the Earth and Water Faction for a fight."

The young girl's pretty face twitched uncontrollably. She was naturally aware of what kind of place the Earth and Water Faction was. She shook her head quickly, and said, "Young Master, don't joke around. The Earth and Water Faction is a party of the Imperial City. Putting aside whether you have such ability, Young Master, even if you do have, the imperial guards will still stop you from going there to make trouble. The Heaven Military Hall will not accept such a request."

"Then, how about this?" Ling Han thought for a moment, then said, "Change it to going to the Earth and Water Faction for a walk, recruiting people to protect me."

For a walk?

The young girl's mouth once again twitched. Who would simply allow intruders to enter into their home to take a walk?

"There's no problem with this kind of request, right?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

On the surface, there was naturally no issue with going for a walk, but anyone would know that this going for a walk was actually going for a fight. The young girl grimaced, then said, "There is indeed no problem, but, Young Master—"

"If there's no problem, then hang up the mission for me. You do not have to bother about any other things." Ling Han smiled, handed over some monetary notes, and said, "The rewards are as follows..." He recited the rewards list, then added, "Ten Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists would be enough, and Gushing Spring Tier... a hundred should be good enough."

The expression of the pretty young girl immediately changed. What a humongous expense was this? Her first reaction was that Ling Han must be joking, but there was nothing false about the monetary notes that he had handed over. The total amount was 6 million. It was enough to hire such a group for up to three days.

This young master... was an extremely rich young man.

She hurriedly registered Ling Han's request. Anyways, as long as there was no breach of the Heaven Military Hall's rules and the rewards were paid, then however weird or bizarre a request it was, it would be announced to all the members of the Heaven Military Hall.

Because the reward for this request was so colossal, it instantly became the focus of attention.

"What, hiring bodyguards to go for a walk at the Earth and Water Faction? Is this some kind of joke?"

"Don't care whether it's a joke or not. Now that it is posted, then that means that there is absolutely no problem with the validity of the reward."

"Hiss, a day equals 10,000!"

"If you're in Spiritual Ocean Tier, you can even earn 100,000!"

The whole plaza became lively. Some of them recalled the signboard that Ling Han had put up previously, and they went over to find him.

Ling Han was already standing there, and those people immediately began enquiring him about the details of the request.

"Young Master, I am in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, and have one foot into Gushing Spring Tier. How about it? I only want 5000 silver coins."

"I am in the eighth layer of Element Gathering Tier, and I only require 4000 coins."

Those enquiring were mostly all in Element Gathering Tier, and were only there to join in on the excitement. Meanwhile, those Spiritual Ocean Tier elites were merely observing. After all, the Earth and Water Faction was not something to joke about.

Ling Han merely pointed at the sign that he had put up. What did he need Element Gathering Tier martial artists for? He himself was in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, and gathering a bunch of lackeys at this level was not impressive enough.

His eyes swept over the surroundings, when a smile suddenly appeared on his face. He walked forwards, where a middle-aged man was sitting on a stone lion. There was a wine gourd in his hand, and he kept pouring wine into his mouth endlessly.

"Yi, this brat has quite good eyes, to actually fix his eye on Master

Guang Yuan!"

"What, the Master Guang Yuan who is known to be able to shatter a mountain with seven punches?"

"That's right. He's one of the top ten strongest warriors of our Heaven Military Hall!"

"Hiss, his cultivation level is the fifth layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier. In the past, he was also considered as a genius of martial arts, but for some unknown reason, has been stagnating on the fifth layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier for such a long time."

"Are you an idiot? Every step in Spiritual Ocean Tier is as difficult as climbing to heaven. It is not uncommon for some to be stuck for their whole life in this tier."

When they saw that middle-aged man, everyone exclaimed in shock.

Ling Han naturally did not know that this large man's name was Guang Yuan. He had only noticed the latter's cultivation level, and so had decided to approach him. However, as his attention became more focused, he found out even more information, and he could not help but smile.

"The more you drink to forget your troubles, the more troubled you will feel," he said to Guang Yuan.

"What does a little brat know about troubles?" Guang Yuan asked calmly, not even turning around to look at Ling Han.

"You're cultivating the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll, right?" Ling Han lowered his voice considerably, only loud enough for just Guang Yuan to hear.

Guang Yuan's expression changed drastically, and he could not help but stop his actions of continuing to drink. He looked towards Ling Han, and similarly lowered his voice to a whisper, and asked, "How did you know?"

"I not only know that you're cultivating the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll, I also know that you have made some mistake in your cultivation. At present, isn't the third bone on your spine faintly aching?" Ling Han asked calmly.

This time, Guang Yuan could no longer maintain his composure. He suddenly leaped up from the stone lion, stood in front of Ling Han, and asked, "Who are you?" It was only in this year that he had discovered there was a problem in his cultivation, and the symptoms were exactly like what Ling Han had pointed out, the third bone of his spine would faintly ache.

"Come, come, come. Accept my request, and I will give you a very fortunate opportunity. It will not only solve your current problem, you may even be able to advance further," Ling Han said, smiling faintly, like a demon bewitching a human.

It was only now that Guang Yuan saw the sign that Ling Han had put up; he could not help but wear a strange expression, and said, "You have quite a bold personality."

"Not too bad. That's why I'm looking for a few bodyguards!" Ling Han said, smiling.

A thoughtful expression appeared on Guang Yuan's face. Since Ling Han could tell that he was cultivating the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll, and could also tell that he had encountered a problem in his cultivation, then that would imply that there was a very high chance that Ling Han could solve his problem.

He decided to take the gamble.

"All right then. I'll accept this request!"

Chapter 193: Successfully Gathering a Group

Guang Yuan had not purposely lowered his voice when he said this, so those around them heard his words very clearly.

"What, Shatter a Mountain with Seven Punches, Master Guang Yuan, has accepted the request?"

"That's Master Guang Yuan we're talking about here!"

"With Master Guang Yuan there, what's there to be afraid of?"

"I'm applying too!"

When they saw that Guang Yuan had accepted the request, a considerable number of Gushing Spring Tier elites too exclaimed, expressing their interest.

"Please go to the Main Hall to obtain the mission," Ling Han said, smiling. "Then, come back here to gather."

"Is today considered one day as well?" They all thought that this was inconceivable.

"Of course," Ling Han said casually.

This brat definitely had to have enough money to burn. It was almost noon by now, which mean that half the day's money had already been burnt. However, such a rich employer would be favored by everyone, wouldn't he?

With the participation of a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, the rest were naturally feeling braver. Even if the sky fell down on them, there would be someone taller to hold it up. The power of setting an example was great, as very soon, there were other elites of Spiritual Ocean Tier who decided to accept the request. In this manner, so what if they decided to barge into the Earth and Water Faction? If Yang Tian Du did not want to participate in a conflict that would damage both sides equally, he would only be able to swallow his anger.

The more Spiritual Ocean Tier elites accepted the request, the more attractive this mission naturally became. Anyways, they only needed to keep Ling Han safe, and there was no need for them to flout the law in any way, so they would at least be able to retreat unscathed from this.

After another hour had passed, the hundred Gushing Spring Tier martial artists were successfully gathered. In fact, there were even more Gushing Spring Tier martial artists who were interested in joining, but Ling Han did not need too many of them. However, there were only seven Spiritual Ocean Tier elites.

After all, Spiritual Ocean Tier elites could definitely be considered the absolutely elite powerful warriors. It was not an easy feat for a lone cultivator to make it this far. In fact, being able to recruit seven of such powerful warriors in just over an hour's time was enough of a miraculous feat itself.

Firstly, it was because the rewards that Ling Han had posted were attractive enough, and secondly, with the participation of Guang Yuan, he influenced those who were still wavering and hesitating to join.

Seven Spiritual Ocean Tier elites should be about enough.

Ling Han considered for a moment. Though it was not as impressive as having ten to back him, it was not too bad either.

"Young Master Han, when are we leaving?" those gathered asked Ling Han. Though they were all at a higher cultivation level than Ling Han, but who asked him to be their employer? Lone cultivators were not as proud as the clan members of prominent Clans. Otherwise, they would definitely not be addressing Ling Han as Young Master Han... unless they knew his background.

"When those who went to accept the mission return, we'll set out," Ling Han said.

"All right!" Everyone nodded, practically able to see in their

mind's eye a huge sum of money waving at them.

"That's him!" It was at this moment that a man nearby pointed at Ling Han, his face filled with fury. It was Ruan Shi Zhong who had previously forced Ling Han to buy his merchandise and attempted to force him to sell it back. There were a few other people around him. Four of them were his lackeys, and there was another middle-aged man, who had a much steadier aura about him. This man was a Gushing Spring Tier elite.

The middle-aged man's name was Ai Song, and he was one of the Hall Leaders of the Earth and Water Faction. When he heard Ruan Shi Zhong tell him about the incident involving the Golden Flower of the Stone, he instantly could not hold back his greed and followed them here.

"Brat, Ruan Shi Zhong of our Faction mistakenly sold off a treasured item of our Faction. Give us back the treasured item!" Ai Song shouted at Ling Han, a haughty expression on his face.

Those who had agreed to accept Ling Han's request immediately looked fierce at this. Their mission was to ensure Ling Han's safety. They never thought that the enemies would already appear, when they hadn't even stepped out of Heaven Military Hall. It was indeed quite intriguing.

These lone cultivators were all living on the edge of danger. It could be claimed that they had managed to come this far on their path of cultivation all with their own power—of course, there were a few who had done despicable acts before, such as robbery and murder.

They were more rounded, tougher, and more warlike than those who had grown up under the protection of their respective Clans.

It was too bad that Ai Song did not have enough self-awareness and felt too secure in himself, so sure that he would be able to easily dominate such a youngster like Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "He sold it and I bought it, so the item is naturally mine. I don't have any interest to sell it off, so get lost!"

'Get lost!?'

Ai Song's previously haughty expression became extremely ugly, as if he had been suddenly punched, and he asked darkly, "Brat, do you know who I am?"

"An idiot trying to give me a laugh," Ling Han said, smiling.

"W-what?!" Ai Song was stunned for a moment, before looking extremely enraged.

Ling Han continued, "I realized that all idiots have a common characteristic, and that is they all like to ask 'do you know who I am?' or 'are you aware of who I am?' How the f*** should I know what idiot you are!"

"You're seeking death!" Ai Song finally could no longer hold himself back. He gave a great leap and pounced towards Ling Han, delivering a punch. He wanted to severely injure this brat who had spoken such insolent words.

"Get back, idiot!" A figure leaped out and similarly threw a punch towards Ai Song.

Peng , the two men's fists collided against each other, instantly creating a visible ripple that spread out in all directions. Ai Song trembled, and teng , teng , teng , retreated a whole thirteen steps. The other person was also forced backwards, though he merely took seven steps backwards.

Ai Song could not help but reveal a resentful expression, and said, "What a good brat to actually dare to speak so insolently to me! So there is someone to back you! And who are you? Are you aware of who I am?" When he spoke the last words, he suddenly recalled what Ling Han had said just now, and could not help but look slightly embarrassed.

"How do I know who you are, idiot!" The man shrugged. He was naturally one of the bodyguards that Ling Han had recruited. His name was Hu San, and he was in the fourth layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

"Hahahaha." The others began to laugh as well.

Ai Song gave a humph, and said, "Don't think that you are powerful enough to dominate over me. I had just been a bit careless just now." This was the truth. He naturally could not beat Ling Han to death, so had used very little power in that punch just now.

"I am Ai Song, the Hall Leader of the Loyalty Hall of Earth and Water Faction. Do you still intend to stand against me?" he added.

Everyone could not help but say "oh". No wonder he seemed to hold such a grudge against Ling Han, because Ling Han was indeed going to deal with the Earth and Water Faction. They did not know that they had not guessed correctly at all.

"Get lost!" Hu San glared. Though lone cultivators were very weak on their own, they still had one advantage, and that was the fact they had nothing to worry about. They did not have to worry about such things like if any conflict would rise up between their Clan and their opponent's Clan, because they had no Clan. If they wanted to fight, they would. If they weren't strong enough to beat their opponent, they could flee. In the worst-case scenario, they could hide somewhere for a few years.

"Very good. To actually dare to go against our Earth and Water Faction, how bold," Ai Song said furiously.

Ling Han walked towards Ruan Shi Zhong, smiled, and said, "It just so happens that I don't know where the lair of the Earth and Water Faction is. Lead us there then."

"Insolence!" Ai Song once again acted, but Hu San once again punched out and blocked his attack.

Ling Han stretched out a hand to grab him, and Ruan Shi Zhong was easily subdued. He smiled faintly, and said, "I gave you a chance. It's too bad you did not cherish it, and came back to make trouble with me. You should know that there will not always be second chances available in life!"

Pa . His hands moved, and Ruan Shi Zhong's right arm was instantly broken, hanging on at a terrifying angle. It was a sight that would make anyone shiver.

"Ah...!" Ruan Shi Zhong instantly wailed in agony.

This time, not just Ai Song, even Guang Yuan and the others were extremely shocked, because it was not a small issue to cause injury to another in such a public area in the Imperial City.

This brat was really a bit too ruthless, wasn't he?

Chapter 194: You Extort Me?

Translator: DarkAngel_, Reverie_ Editor: Kurisu

"Good! Good! Good! You dare harm the people of Earth and Water Faction, you're seeking your own death!" Ai Song smiled coldly, and turned to leave.

He wasn't running, but he was going to find the Imperial Guards.

A place like Heavenl Military Hall where there were many martial artists and lone martial artists who were ill-tempered and impulsive was one where a fight could break out just because of a single disagreement.

So, there were Imperial Guards posted here to deter troublemakers and police the area.

"Master Han, it's troublesome now!" said someone pointing at Ruan Shi Zhong.

Ling Han smiled faintly and said, "No matter."

Guang Yuan and the others frowned and thought that Ling Han was too arrogant. Those who went against the imperial law never came to a good end.

Just a short while later, Ai Song led two Imperial Guards over. These two Imperial Guards were only at Ninth Element Gathering Tier, but as they approached, everyone made way.

The people weren't scared of those two, but of the uniforms on them that represented the emperor's power and law.

"These two sirs, this is the child publicly harming people at Heaven Military Temple," said Ai Song pointing at Ling Han who was still in control of the whimpering Ruan Shi Zhong; it was practically irrefutable evidence.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "You can eat whatever you want, but you can't irresponsibly speak speak as you wish. This guy fell on his own, breaking even his arm. I kindly helped him up.

I'll let it pass that I'm not even given a good Samaritan award, but how could you extort me?"

This not only enraged Ai Song, but also made Guang Yuan and the others speechless. This guy was too good at making stuff up, even going as far as making a bogus claim...

"What really happened?" said an Imperial Guard, who looked towards Ling Hang with a hint of awe.

This was really inconceivable that the law enforcement team belonging directly to the Emperor's family would revere a young man, but the truth was so.

Ling Han knew that they recognized his identity. Two great alchemy masters backed him, so how could they not know him considering the grasp of the Emperor's family? Thus, the Imperial Guards definitely received orders that as long as Ling Han didn't commit murder and arson, no amount of disturbance would matter. Contrarily, if Ling Han faced danger, these Imperial Guards would have to protect him, or they wouldn't be able to justify themselves to the two great alchemy masters.

However, from this, it could be seen that Feng Yan had an even more terrifying background, because when Feng Yan slashed the cart on the streets, no Imperial Guards ran out and just let them stir up trouble all they wanted.

"Two sirs, the situation is clear, this guy is the culprit!" Ai Song shouted.

An Imperial Guard's expression turned solemn, and he said, "This young master said it well: words shouldn't be said irresponsibly. Do you have proof?"

Proof? Did this still need proof? It couldn't be more obvious, or were you two blind?

Ai Song had a stomachful of rage, but with the thought of the status of these Imperial Guards, he could only calmly say, "Ruan

Shi Zhong, you come tell these two sirs!"

Ruan Shi Zhong endured the pain, and said, "Two sirs, it's him, he was the one who broke my arm!" He was 'tricked' by Ling Hang into giving the Golden Flower of the Stone, slapped dizzy by Hu Niu, and now his arm was broken by Ling Han... naturally, he hated Ling Han and Ling Han's companions to the bones.

Pa !

Ling Han immediately slapped Ruan Shi Zhong in the back of his head, and said coldly, "You shameful thing. I kindly helped you up, yet you bite like a mad dog! Do I look easy to bully?"

Ruan Shi Zhong almost fainted. He forcefully bought and sold, not counting how many evil deeds he'd done, but being unjustly treated was a first. He felt so aggrieved that his veins were going to explode.

"He did it!" Ruan Shi Zhong's four underlings all stood forward to testify.

"Lords Imperial Guards, we're all witnesses, surely we're not all trying to extort him?" said Ai Song coldly.

"Oh, so you can make up facts with more witnesses?" Ling Han laughed lightly, then turned to speak to the crowd. "Did I break this man's arm?"

"No!" Guang Yuan and the others all said with a smile. The lone cultivators often have wild and intractable dispositions, some even wished for mayhem. Naturally, they all started to stir up a fuss.

Ling Han shrugged, and said, "These two Imperial Guard brothers, you both heard them. I have more witnesses that say I didn't break this guy's arm."

S-shameless!

Ai Song's face twitched. Water and Earth Faction could be said as the most infamous force within the imperial city. As long as money

could be made, all jobs were accepted no matter how dirty it was. But even Ai Song wanted to yell out 'shameful,' it was apparent how angry Ling Han made him.

"Boy, is it really wise for you to go against Earth and Water Faction?" he said threateningly.

"Dear Imperial Guard brothers, this guy is threatening me, you all heard, right? If anything happens to me from today on, just look for him," said Ling Han quickly.

The two Imperial Guards immediately looked towards Ai Song, and one of them said, "Sir Ai Song, please be careful, some words should not be said irresponsibly!"

Ai Song's cheek twitched, was the imperial army established by this boy? Why did they side with him so much?

"Two Imperial Guard brothers, there is nothing going on here that needs your attention, so how about you go back to relax and drink some tea?" Ling Han said with a smile.

The two Imperial Guards threw a quick warning glance at Ai Song. "Do not cause any trouble, or even the Earth and Water Faction won't be able to shield you!"

Having said that, the two soon turned around and left.

This made Ai Song realize that Ling Han's background was definitely not ordinary. He gave Ling Han a deep look, then said, "Young man, just what is your identity?"

"So you don't know? How do you get by in the Imperial City? " Ling Han shook his head, then continued, "Go back to Yang Tian Du, tell him I'll be going on a walk to visit the Earth and Water Faction soon, so he should prepare."

"What?!" Ai Song raised his voice involuntarily. "You actually dare to come to our Earth and Water Faction?!"

"What, do you want me to tell me that the Earth and Water

Faction is some kind of a dragon's pond or a tiger's cave? If there's really some dragon there, then it'll have to coil before me, and if there's a tiger, it'll have to lie down for me." Ling Han gestured for him to leave by waving his hands, and said, "Get lost, I have no time for a nobody like you."

"Good! Good! Good!" Ai Song clenched his teeth. First of all, he was unable to do anything with Hu San present here; second of all, the Imperial Guards here were too chummy with Ling Han—calling them in again would be just a waste of time and effort.

Filled with hate, he turned around and left. As for Ruan Shi Zhong, he was naturally completely ignored by him. There were plenty of such nobodies in the Earth and Water Faction—let alone one, even if a hundred or a thousand died, it wouldn't matter.

"My Lord, My Lord!" Ruan Shi Zhong followed the departing Ai Song with a look full with despair. Ling Han even dared to break his arms in front of Ai Song... so would Ling Han kill him now? Ruan Shi Zhong couldn't help but tremble in fear and almost pissed himself.

"Don't worry, I abide by the law. How could I possibly kill you?" Ling Han smiled at him. "Well, what are you waiting for? Lead the way! We're going for a walk to the Earth and Water Faction."

Ruan Shi Zhong and his four sidekicks were helpless, and could only go forward to lead the way while secretly praying that Ling Han would walk right into a trap upon their arrival and suffer big time. However, when they saw that the number of people following Ling Han was over a hundred, they almost pissed themselves again.

Chapter 195: Barging In

Ling Han and his group made for a grand display.

There was a smile with hidden depths around the lips of Guang Yuan and the rest.

They were all lone cultivators and had untamed temperaments, but none of them were idiots. When they saw the attitude of those two Imperial Guards, they realized that Ling Han was definitely someone from a prominent background. After all, even the Imperial Guards seemed to have gone blind and acted so partial towards him in the conflict. It seemed like there wouldn't be any mishaps happening on this trip.

...There were only three Spiritual Ocean Tier and a few dozen Gushing Spring Tier martial artists in the Earth and Water Faction; much worse off than their group in terms of quality.

The group proudly walked through the streets, and soon arrived at the Earth and Water Faction.

Though the Earth and Water Faction was named a Faction, in truth, there was not much difference between it and any other ordinary Clan-based party. They had a very large courtyard in the Imperial City, and all the high-ranking leaders of the Faction lived here.

Currently, there was a state of alert in the area at the main doors. Obviously, Ai Song had returned with his information and the Earth and Water Faction had reacted accordingly.

"Mister, you first snatched a treasure from one of the members of our Faction, and now you come here so forcefully. Do you think that there is no one who can stand against you in our Earth and Water Faction and are trying to bully us?" an old man asked darkly, a very powerful aura emanating from him.

Ling Han could not help but laugh. It seemed that the Earth and

Water Faction mistakenly believed that the whole matter was due to the Golden Flower of the Stone. He shook his head, and said, "Your Intelligence Department is really too poor, isn't it? You crashed so many of my shops, and don't even know who I am?"

The old man was an Elder of the Earth and Water Faction, in the second layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier. His name was Lu Yue. He stared at Ling Han for a moment, but still thought that the latter looked unfamiliar to him. True, crashing the shops of others was only a small business for the Earth and Water Faction, and could not possibly disturb such a high-ranking person as he, so he had no idea that the Faction had made this kind of enemy.

At this moment, a nearby middle-aged man's expression changed; he approached and whispered quietly into Lu Yue's ear. The old man nodded slightly and assumed a disapproving expression.

'F***, so it's just a small matter of several clothing stores being smashed!'

In Lu Yue's opinion, how could the value of a few clothing stores compare to the Golden Flower in the Stone? You snatched a treasure from one of the members of the Faction, and its value was several hundred times the value of those clothing stores that had been smashed. No matter how he looked at it, it was the Earth and Water Faction that was the victim here.

This brat had to be a young master from some wealthy family, spoilt since his birth. That was why he had been so impulsive—actually coming over to seek vengeance just because a few of his stores had been crashed.

"Heng, I don't know what you're talking about. You're simply trying to smear the name of our Faction!" Lu Yue completely denied the accusation of his stores being smashed by members of the Faction. This was after all nothing to be proud of—though the Earth and Water Faction was a Faction of hooligans and ruffians in the eyes of the residents of the Imperial City, they had a high

opinion of themselves.

"Leave behind the Golden Flower in the Stone and pay a further compensation of 10 million, then you can get lost!" he said aggressively to Ling Han.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "How overbearing! However, do you have the ability to be overbearing?" He walked towards the main doors.

"Insolence!" Immediately, someone jumped out and stretched out a hand to grab Ling Han's throat, intending to subdue him in a single move.

"Get lost!" A person also jumped out from behind Ling Han. The light of his sword flowed like water and swept towards that man who had jumped out earlier.

That man of the Earth and Water Faction could not help but tense up and hurriedly bent to avoid the blow. There was now a middle-aged man standing in front of Ling Han, wielding a sword and exuding aura that was not the slightest bit weaker than his.

Ling Han did not even pause in his steps, and continued his advance.

Such a contemptuous attitude greatly enraged the people of the Earth and Water Faction. They all jumped out and charged towards Ling Han. However, those people that Ling Han had hired were naturally not going to be paid for not doing anything. They too jumped out and protected Ling Han.

This was a battle of one hundred against thirteen. Ling Han's side was greatly at the advantage. Moreover, there were still seven Spiritual Ocean Tier elites who had yet to make a move.

It was only now that Lu Yue discovered that there were seven people whose aura was not any weaker than his, and he could not help but tense up.

If they were in Gushing Spring Tier, it would be useless no

matter how many there were. He would only need to heavily injure a few of them quickly, and it was practically guaranteed that the rest would flee like rats. Lone cultivators were more ruthless than anyone at times when they were at an advantageous position, but once they fell into a disadvantage, then they would definitely be like a sheet of loose sand, and flee faster than anyone else.

However, there now actually appeared seven people in Spiritual Ocean Tier... this could be problematic.

This brat was indeed very wealthy, actually managing to hire Spiritual Ocean Tier elites. No wonder he dared to come here to challenge them.

Lu Yue thought for a moment, then said, "Friends, no matter what kind of conditions this brat has promised you, as long as you all choose to stand by and do nothing today, then whatever reward he has promised you will be from our Earth and Water Faction!"

He was quite a decisive man.

Guang Yuan laughed, and said, "Elder Lu, a man has to be true to his word. Moreover, we have already accepted the mission at the Heaven Military Hall, if we drop the ball now, who would dare to hire us in future?"

"You know who I am?" Lu Yue asked.

"Hehe, Elder Lu Yue's nickname is 'Soft Light Needle'. No one would know when you used your hidden weapons; who would not recognize you?" Guang Yuan said calmly, then gave a wave of his hand and said, "The main character today is Young Master Han. Anything you want to say, say it to Young Master Han. We are just responsible for ensuring his safety."

Old fox!

Lu Yue cursed internally. He had wanted to use the Earth and Water Faction to force them to submit, but he easily pushed all the responsibility onto Ling Han. This gave him a feeling like he had

thrown a punch into a ball of wool. It was not a good feeling.

"Brat, if you stop now, it's still not too late!" he said to Ling Han. "As long as you pay the compensation for the losses of our Faction-f***!"

While he was chattering, Ling Han had suddenly thrown a powerful punch and actually punched down the inscribed sign hanging over their doors. With a peng , it fell onto to ground. The sign was made of bronze and when it crashed onto the floor, it created a loud noise that shocked quite a few people.

When the people of the Earth and Water Faction saw this, their eyes reddened.

That was the signboard of the Earth and Water Faction!

As the saying went, when you get into a fight, never aim for the face. This signboard was equivalent to the face of the Earth and Water Faction, and now was punched down by Ling Han onto the ground. Naturally, everyone was enraged.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "You seem to have had quite a lot of fun in my stores last night, today I will let you enjoy the same thing too!" He raised his foot before suddenly slamming it down. The strength of a martial artist in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier burst out, and pa , the signboard was instantly broken into two halves.

"You're seeking death!" The members of the Earth and Water Faction were all greatly enraged, wanting nothing more than to tear Ling Han into pieces.

Though murder was against the law in the Imperial City, it did not mean that you still had to endure it when your enemies were at your doorstep. There would be no punishment for those who injured others or even killed their enemies in self-defense!

"Ignorant brat!" Lu Yue's killing intent was on full display. He leaped towards Ling Han, raised his hand and xiu , xiu , xiu , xiu ,

nine golden needles flew out. These needles were instilled with his unique Origin Power and had the ability to pierce through any defenses of Origin Power. It was a vicious attack.

"Elder Yue, your opponent is me!" Guang Yuan gave a loud shout. His body lightly trembled and actually shone with an endless golden light, as if he was a Buddha. He struck out with one hand, and shouted, "The teachings of Buddha is without boundary, surpassing death!"

Hong , the golden light shone resplendently, indescribably vast and powerful.

Ling Han did not even spare a glance. He simply continued to stride forward and entered the Earth and Water Faction's headquarters. He smiled slightly, and said to Hu Niu, "Come, come, come. Let's have a little contest, and see who can make more damage!"

"Niu will definitely win!" Hu Niu said in exhilaration.

Chapter 196: Paying Compensation?

Ling Han and Hu Niu both wreaked great havoc. With a punch and a kick, the mayhem began, starting from the main doors onwards. Whatever they saw, they destroyed, creating a path of ruin and destruction towards the Main Hall, leaving wreckage and damage behind them.

Of course, there were even more members of the Earth and Water Faction who had jumped out to stop them, but Ling Han had hired as many as one hundred Gushing Tier martial artists, and now was the time to make use of them. They too jumped out and blocked the incoming attacks, ensuring Ling Han's safety.

When Ling Han led his path of destruction all the way to the Main Hall, what was originally a beautiful garden and an elegant corridor was already in complete disorder. Ruined flowers were here and there, broken pieces of the pillars were all over the floor... it was as if there was a demolition project going on in this place.

"Stop it!" A mighty voice was heard, and a tall, old man appeared. There was an endless frosty and powerful aura exuding from his whole body, filled with the forceful air of a person who had occupied a high social rank for a long time.

It was the Faction Leader of the Earth and Water Faction, whose cultivation level was in the fifth layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Everyone could not help but stop moving. The reputation of a person was like the shadow cast by a tree. No matter what, Yang Tian Du was still the Leader of a Faction, and so naturally had his own influence.

However, it seems that his influence and reputation had no obvious effect on the demolishing duo.

Kuang! Peng! Guang!

Ling Han and Hu Niu were very much enjoying the process of spreading damage, and there were even more things that could be broken in the Main Hall, such as tables, chairs, vases, screens, and so on. Especially in Hu Niu's case. She had been raised by a ferocious beast in the first place, so there was a thirst for blood and destruction flowing in her veins. This nature had only been temporarily repressed at Ling Han's side, and was now being slowly set free. She bared her little canines, fully displaying her fierce nature, as if she herself was a little tiger.

"I told you two to stop!" Yang Tian Du shouted in fury. His voice became a ripple that swept out towards Ling Han and Hu Niu.

Hu Niu's figure twisted and dodged, as if she could teleport, and actually managed to dodge the sound wave created by this shout miraculously. Meanwhile, Ling Han's left hand moved, and the Blood Sucking Origin Gold transformed into a concave mirror. The power of the sound wave collected in front of it and was reflected back in a straight line. With a *pu*, it actually crushed the legs of a nearby member of the Earth and Water Faction into a foam of blood.

Ling Han withdrew the Origin Gold, shook his head and said, "Leader Yang is indeed unrivalled in your power. Merely one shout and you can actually liquefy the flesh and blood of a human being. You truly deserve the name of an elite in Spiritual Ocean Tier! However, why had you attacked your own people? Could it be he cuckolded you?"

Even if Yang Tian Du was a subtle person by nature, he could not help but turn green after hearing such words. He said coldly, "Brat, a loose tongue may cause a lot of trouble. You're definitely going to die today!" He suddenly moved, moving as fast as a lightning bolt. With a single leap, he was right in front of Ling Han, and stretched out his hand in a strike.

"Get lost!" Guang Yuan moved, becoming a golden Buddha. He struck out with a palm strike, and golden light filled the air.

Peng !

The two elites clashed head on for a single strike, and both of them were slightly trembling from the force. Then they each took seven steps back. However, Guang Yuan's expression changed slightly, and he took another step back and finally managed to steady his footing. This was because he suffered from an ailment. If not, he would definitely not have been at a disadvantage in this clash.

"Shatter a Mountain with Seven Punches, Guang Yuan?" With one glance, Yang Tian Du recognized his opponent.

"Sword of Rioting Shadows, Yang Tian Du!" Guang Yuan said calmly.

Yang Tian Du could not help but become cautious. Guang Yuan was also in the fifth layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier. Though the latter had been at a slight disadvantage in that clash of blows just now, if there was another person who joined forces with him, that would be enough to oppose him.

Ling Han had in total seven Spiritual Ocean Tier elites on his side, while he only had three on his side. In terms of numbers, he was at too much of a disadvantage.

"Brother Guang Yuan, why do you need to involve yourself with this nasty business? Why don't you choose to stand by and do nothing, and in return, I shall owe you a debt. Agreed?" Yang Tian Du decided to restrain his displeasure for the moment.

Guang Yuan laughed disdainfully, and said, "Is the Great Leader Yang not aware of the grand reputation of the Earth and Water Faction? I dare not accept a debt from you!"

Yang Tian Du was so angry he was shaking. This was completely ridiculing him!

"However!" Guang Yuan's words took a swift turn. "We are only hired to protect Young Master Han. As long as Young Master Han

is unharmed, we would of course not make a move. Thus, why won't the Great Leader Yang give us all some face and let Ling Han take a walk around here and go for a look around, and we can just enjoy some tea and chat in the meanwhile. How about it?"

'How about it your sister!'

All the members of the Earth and Water Faction looked like they wanted to commit murder. This walk of Ling Han was not the slightest bit peaceful. From the moment he had entered, he had started his path of destruction, and was even worse than a gang of bandits suddenly set upon them. If they allowed him to walk around for a while, then would there be an undamaged tile left in the headquarters of the Earth and Water Faction?

Yang Tian Du's eyes swept over the group, and his eyes suddenly lit up. He asked, "Everyone, you only need to ensure the safety of this young man, right?"

"Naturally!" Guang Yuan and the others nodded.

"Then this young girl and the little girl should not be included in your protection, right?" A cold smirk curled around the corners of Yang Tian Du's lips.

He was talking about Liu Yu Tong and Hu Niu.

"Indeed, no!" Guang Yuan and the others shook their heads.

"Good!" Yang Tian Du gave a wave of his hand, pointed at Liu Yu Tong and Hu Niu, and commanded, "Apprehend the two of them!" He calmed down and lifted his tea cup for a sip, feeling that everything was back under his control.

"Yes, Faction Leader!" The members of the Earth and Water Faction all got the wind back into their sails. They had finally found a weakness, and could finally turn the tables and get back into control!

Ling Han laughed, and said, "Allow me to introduce! This beautiful young Miss has the surname of Liu, and the given name

of Yu Tong. She is the princess of the Liu Clan of the Eight Great Clans! Hehe, I am really impressed, Great Leader Yang. You are indeed very brave to actually dare to make a move on even the Young Miss of the Liu Clan! Awesome, there would definitely be no one else with such overwhelming courage like you!"

Pu!

Yang Tian Du instantly spat out a mouthful of hot tea. How could Lu Yue, who had been beside him, foreseen such a 'sneak attack'? As a result, his whole face was covered with tea. His eyebrows, hair, and beard were all stuck onto his face.

"S-stop!" Yang Tian Du did not have the time to comfort Lu Yue and hurriedly shouted at his underlings to stop. If they actually dared to come to blows with the princess of the Liu Clan, then most likely, the powerful elites of the Liu Clan would soon come over and turn the whole Earth and Water Faction upside down.

"It is indeed the Young Miss of the Liu Clan. I've seen her once before."

"She's one of the Twin Pearls of the Imperial City. Who would not have heard of her? She is indeed shockingly beautiful."

"Why would she be with such a detestable brat?"

The people of the Earth and Water Faction mumbled amongst themselves. Even the princess of the Liu Clan was involved... they seemed to smell a scent of danger—could it be that the Liu Clan was displeased with them, and had deliberately sent Ling Han over to give them a little punishment?

"Don't misunderstand!" Ling Han smiled slightly, and took the initiative to explain, "This has nothing to do with the Liu Clan. The reason I came today is actually very simple. Last night, you guys crashed my... Yu Tong, how many of our stores have been crashed?"

"Forty-seven," Liu Yu Tong instantly answered.

"You guys crashed forty-seven of my stores, so I have come today to get some justice." Ling Han grinned. "How much do you intend to pay to compensate for my loss?"

'F***, you came to make damage and destruction at the Earth and Water Faction, and actually want us to give you an explanation?'

The people of the Earth and Water Faction were all furious at this. They usually bullied the commoners and acted tyrannical on the streets, doing all kinds of bad deeds. They could be considered quite shameless people themselves, but now they realized that compared with Ling Han's shamelessness, they paled in comparison.

"You came to make trouble at our Faction, and still want our Faction to pay you compensation?" Yang Tian Du was so extremely furious that he laughed, his tone cold and dark.

"Not paying?" Ling Han grinned. "Then I'll just continue to spread destruction!"

Chapter 197: Reporting to the Authorities

Kuang! Kuang! Kuang! Ling Han moved and mercilessly went back to his path of destruction. Hu Niu had already returned to Ling Han's side, to avoid being ambushed by the Earth and Water Faction. If she were captured and held hostage, then Ling Han would still be slightly troubled.

"Stop!" The men of Earth and Water Faction once again tried to stop him. But one move from them, and Guang Yuan and his group would move as well, creating a domino effect and once again inciting the start of a battle royale.

"Please do not make things difficult for us, fellows," Guang Yuan and his group said.

'****!'

There were already some men of the Earth and Water Faction who had spat out blood in their overwhelming rage. It was this brat who had first come to their place to make trouble, but why were they the ones being advised not to make a move and create trouble for him? Was there any such logic in this world?

Whatever Ling Han saw, he would smash. Hu Niu had transformed into a creature of violence and destroyed the furniture and ornaments in the place, reducing them to an indescribable state. Though there were only two of them, one adult and one child, but how could the destructive power of Gushing Spring Tier be taken lightly?

"En, this vase is not bad!" Ling Han picked up a vase, and with a kuang , it had shattered into a hundred pieces. He shrugged, and said, "Aiyo, my hand slipped."

Kuang , and another delicate vase was shattered.

"My hand slipped again."

Kuang!

"Why is my hand so slippery today!"

"Great Leader Yang, whenever you have made the decision to compensate me, you can come over and discuss it with me!" Ling Han said with a smile as he smashed a painting that had been hanging on the wall of the Main Hall into pieces, causing Hu Niu to clap her hands in delight.

Because the painting depicted a fierce tiger with white eyes that had been hung up. It had obviously offended the little girl.

Yang Tian Du's face was dark and cold. After gritting his teeth for a moment, he said, "Make a report to the Imperial Guards. Tell them that someone has trespassed into our residence illegally and is committing a crime here!"

"Leader!" The members of the Earth and Water Faction all exclaimed in shock. If they actually reported this to the Imperial Guards, then what would be left of their reputation? They were a great Faction, and were actually forced by a young man to the extent that they had to get the Imperial Guards to solve the issue. If this news spread out, then what pride would they have left?

"Do you think that it'll help our pride to have this kind of situation continue?" Yang Tian Du humphed.

The rest all immediately fell silent. That's right. Ling Han was currently very much enjoying his destruction and devastation, yet they could only stand by and watch helplessly. If the situation continued, was this anything to be proud of?

"I'll go!" Lu Yue gritted his teeth and accepted this mission. He really could not bear to just stand by and watch helplessly as Ling Han continued on his path of devastation, so he might as well leave. What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over.

"Then it's up to you, Elder Lu," Yang Tian Du said.

Lu Yue left. Now that they were at this level, the people of the Earth and Water Faction decided they might as well get over it, and

simply wait for the Imperial Guards to deal with Ling Han. One had to know that the Empire had its own laws. Publicly destroying the private residence of another was also quite a serious crime.

After only about half an hour, Lu Yue returned with a troop of several dozen Imperial Guards. Though they were not a large number, and the one walking in the lead was only in Gushing Spring Tier, their identity as Imperial Guards was still there. Would Guang Yuan and his group still dare to go against these Imperial Guards?

If they dared to make a move, that would mean becoming an enemy of the Empire, and that equated to a major offense of treason!

The men of the Earth and Water Faction had never been so desperate to see the Imperial Guards until this moment. Their eyes had turned red in their excitement and they went up to receive them. Their greetings and reception were so warm that the Imperial Guards experienced a bit of a shock. These guys were smiling in a way that was a bit scary. We're all men here. Why are you grabbing onto my hand, and still not letting go? Could it be that you're interested in me?

"Captain Zuo!" Yang Tian Du greeted the minor captain of the Imperial Guards, and said, "There is a mad man creating great damage in this place of mine, and disregards the laws of the Empire entirely. Please arrest him, and punish him severely according to the laws!"

Captain Zuo looked strangely at him, and asked, "With your ability, you are still unable to apprehend this mad man, Master Yang?"

The members of the Earth and Water Faction all flushed, while Yang Tian Du simply said composedly, "We are all good citizens who obey the laws, so how could we so easily resort to force? Our first reaction was naturally to make a report to Captain Zuo, and

get the Imperial Guards to arrest the criminal. This is the natural course of events, and abides by the laws of our nation."

Tsk, tsk, tsk. How nice these words sound.

Captain Zuo's face twitched violently. He was naturally aware of the kind of characters that were in the Earth and Water Faction. When he heard Yang Tian Du call himself a good citizen, he suddenly felt an urge to throw up. Thankfully, he managed to repress this urge. Otherwise, if he had really thrown up over Yang Tian Du, then it would not be easily explained even if he were a minor captain of the Imperial Guards.

"Hahaha, Leader Yang's tolerance is really impressive, making me think of an animal called the tortoise!" Guang Yuan laughed loudly. "If Leader Yang returns home one day and sees a lecherous criminal trying to do that to your beautiful little concubine, would Leader Yang still abide by the laws of the Empire, and first make a report to the Imperial Guards?"

"Naturally!" One of the other lone cultivators laughed as well.

"But is it really good to be cuckolded like this?"

"Who knows, perhaps Master Yang has never had any children all these years, and so would bear being cuckolded just to become a happy father?"

"Hahahaha!" The rest of the lone cultivators did not hold much respect for anyone in the first place, so they too joined in on the raucous laughter.

Yang Tian Du was so enraged he was shaking. However, he only pretended he had not heard anything, and said, "Captain Zuo, please uphold justice!"

"All right!" Captain Zuo agreed. This was part of his duties. "Where is the mad man?"

"There!" Yang Tian Du pointed at a place where smoke and dust was wafting out from. Obviously, Ling Han was currently creating

damage there.

Captain Zuo waved his hand, and brought his men over. After a moment, he finally spotted Ling Han and Hu Niu who were in the midst of their fun and delighting in their destruction. Instantly, his heart trembled.

He had seen Ling Han's portrait before. That was when a strict command had come from his superiors. As long as Ling Han did not do something atrocious like committing murder, then no matter what other things he did, the Imperial Guards were to turn a blind eye to it, and if he encountered any danger, they were to even help him out.

"Captain Zuo, please act quickly, to avoid a greater loss," Yang Tian Du said from the side, for there was suddenly no movement from Captain Zuo.

Captain Zuo gave a sigh, shook his head, and said, "I don't have the ability to deal with this issue!"

"What?!" Yang Tian Du had a sudden urge to go on a rampage. Not even the Imperial Guards were able to deal with this, are you messing around with me?

"Master Yang, you're on your own!" Captain Zuo revealed a meaningful smile. "Additionally, let me give Master Yang a word of warning. You must definitely not injure this person. Otherwise... I would have no choice but to arrest you."

F*****!

Yang Tian Du was currently feeling very depressed. He invited the Imperial Guards over to help him out, but now they were actually all on the other side. How could he endure this?

Captain Zuo did not say anything else. With a wave of his hand, the several dozen men all stood at one side, as if they were there to keep Yang Tian Du under surveillance.

All of a sudden, the members of the Earth and Water Faction

cursed Captain Zuo and all his ancestors. How could they be bullied to this extent?

Peng! Peng! Peng!

On the other side, Ling Han and Hu Niu were still causing great damage and destruction, and from the looks of it, they would not desist unless the whole Earth and Water Faction was destroyed.

Yang Tian Du sighed, closed his eyes, and curled his hands into fists. Because he had used too much strength, his hands were slightly trembling. After a moment, he snapped open his eyes, and said, "Young Master Han, let us come and discuss the matter of compensation!"

He decided to yield.

There was no other way. If it was a clash of power, Ling Han had seven Spiritual Ocean Tier elites and a hundred Gushing Spring Tier martial artists behind him, which was enough to dominate the Earth and Water Faction. If they went the official route, Ling Han was even more awesome. The Imperial Guards not only did not deal with the issue, but would also step up to protect him.

What else could he do then?

"Hahahaha!" Guang Yuan and his group laughed loudly. "Leader Yang's divine art of the tortoise is indeed practiced to the point of perfection. You can really pull back so smoothly and so easily!"

"I'm impressed!"

"I definitely wouldn't be able to learn this art!"

Chapter 198: Agree to Compensate

Translator: Reverie_ Editor: Kurisu

Faced with these mockeries and ridicules, Earth and Water Faction's members could only silently endure all kinds of insults, letting people slap their face.

Ling Han stopped, looked at Yang Tian Du, and laughed. "Leader Yang, how do you plan to compensate me?"

Yang Tian Du's teeth crackled, but circumstances prevail over men, so he said solemnly, "Hundred thousand silvers!" As he said the words, he only felt a burn on his face, as if someone slapped him fiercely.

He was the master of a faction and a formidable Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator—who would've thought he'd lower his head to an Element Gathering Tier youngster... this was a great humiliation.

Ling Hang laughed aloud, then said, "Leader Yang, are you dismissing a beggar? Based on Earth and Water Faction's affluence and power, you ought to pay several million silvers, right?"

Bullcrap!

Yang Tian Du almost threw a fit. Several million silvers, why don't you go rob that! Earth and Water Faction was equivalent to a middle-class clan, and because they were willing to do dirty work, their income was certainly more than that of a middle-class clan.

Ling Han quoted several millions right off the bat, how could he not be agitated? Even if the entire Earth and Water Faction was sold, he wouldn't be able to get that sum of money.

"Impossible!" he said definitively. Honestly, a hundred thousand silvers already hurt his heart... if there wasn't another way, how could he submit?

Ling Han laid out his hands, and said, "Anyways, I've plenty of time to sit here and drink tea, watch a show, and wait for Leader

Yang to change your mind."

"Bam Bam Bam." Hu Niu was still causing mass destruction; the little girl was a human-shaped monster—despite ramming into walls, which fell one after another, she remained unscathed, laughing and enjoying herself greatly.

If it was before, Yang Tian Du might've taken down Hu Niu, but having seen the Imperial Guards' attitude, he knew that Ling Han had an incredibly scary background. This time, he could only swallow the insult bitterly.

He waved people over, and after understanding the details of the situation, he said, "Young Master Han, this faction knows not which stores belong to you. One who does not know is not guilty; we are willing to fully compensate, so please, Young Master Han, have the generosity to let this go."

As for the matter of Earth and Water Faction being trashed, he naturally did not bring it up and just accepted it as a lesson for provoking someone he shouldn't. Of course, he could still get Cheng Yunxiang to pay; Cheng family caused this trouble to begin with.

Earth and Water Faction's disciples all revealed embarrassed and angry expressions, but dared not speak due to Ling Han's influence. They only felt that it was the most shameful day of their lives.

Ling Han swept them with a glance, and said, "You guys refuse to accept it? Why were you guys so insensible yesterday then, to have started trouble at my property! But, Leader Yang is willing to compromise, so I'll give you a chance: pay a hundred thousand silvers first, then tear down Chen family's stores everyday!"

Yang Tian Du looked at Captain Zuo and said, "We are fine subjects that respect justice and abide by the law..."

"Don't start this nonsense!" Ling Han resolutely shook his hands

in admonition, and said, "I don't mind staying here for a while longer."

Looking at Yang Tian Du suffer humiliation, Earth and Water Faction's disciples felt miserable and angry, wishing to run right up to tear Ling Han to pieces; however, seeing the Imperial Guards that were running them down with unfriendly gazes, they had to abandon their intentions.

"Good!" Yang Tian Du was unexpectedly straightforward, coming to a resolution quickly and gritting his teeth in agreement.

He waved his hand, and very quickly a man came carrying an embroidered box. After receiving it, he threw it to Ling Han.

Ling Han opened it to see ten silver notes lying inside, each of ten thousand denomination. He smiled slightly, walked in front of Captain Zuo, handed over the silver notes, and said, "Captain Zuo, this is a small token of appreciation for the trouble in coming over, eat sumptuously afterwards."

Hiss, this guy was a bit too generous. That was a hundred thousand silvers, not ten pieces of toilet paper!

Captain Zuo promptly declined, and said, "No need, no need. Protecting the citizens' safety is our obligation as Imperial Guards!"

Hearing those words made Earth and Water Faction's disciples want to beat someone. Why didn't you say anything when Ling Han acted violently? How extremely partial.

"Take it, I can't let you brothers come for nothing." Ling Han shoved the silver notes to him. For him, a hundred thousand silvers was like a drizzle... besides, this was Earth and Water Faction's tainted money, which he didn't want to touch at all.

Only then did Captain Zuo put away the silver notes, filled with gratitude towards Ling Han. Even though he couldn't take all hundred thousand for himself as he'd have to hand over the majority upwards when he returned, he could still get ten

thousand or so—a decent amount of easy money.

Yang Tian Du's face twitched. That was his money, but it was used by Ling Han to pretend to be generous, and yet he didn't even receive a thank you.

"Young Master Han, you're satisfied now, right?" He had to endure the extreme humiliation, the veins on his forehead popping out.

"Hehe!" Ling Han laughed lightly, and said, "I suppose so. Leader Yang, don't forget my earlier demands—if I see any of Chen Family's stores still open, then I'll take these friends here for some tea."

"I definitely won't let Young Master Han down!" Yang Tian Du grumbled, almost to the point of roaring. "Now, you can let that little girl stop!"

He pointed at Hu Niu. Ling Han had stopped, but the little girl didn't, and she was still knocking down wall after wall. After a wall got knocked down, she would laugh endearingly like it was very fun.

Ling Han laughed aloud, and said, "Niu Niu, time to go home."

"I still want to play!" The little girl showed that she was not yet content.

"Let's go eat meat!" Ling Han tempted.

"Meat! Meat! Meat!" Hu Niu immediately hopped on and hung on Ling Han like a monkey.

"Everyone, we'll meet again as long as time stands." Ling Han walked off swaggeringly. Guang Yuan and the rest followed him. Naturally, the Imperial Guards retreated right after, leaving Earth and Water Faction's people too pained for even tears as they beheld the scene of desolation in their headquarters.

Ling Han first went to Heavenly Martial Palace to update the

request as finished, so that the masses could receive their pay.

"Young Master Han, thank you."

"If you have assignments like this hereafter, remember to call us brothers!"

The people talked to him one after another. It was just a fight without any risks and they earned ten thousand—this assignment was definitely good. The assignments they accepted previously, like going to a robbers' den to kill someone, were filled with danger, which could easily get them killed. They were basically using their lives to make money.

The several formidable Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators all made an exception and smiled at Ling Han. A financial backer like Ling Han was someone even they wanted to be on friendly terms with, but they were embarrassed to express it too overtly due to their status of martial artists in Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Everyone dispersed, but Guang Yuan stayed behind as he still had to consult Ling Han about the problems with his cultivation

"Tell me, what do you want me to do?" Guang Yuan said. Although he complied to be hired by Ling Han, he also received pay, so he obviously had to find another way to solve the issue on cultivation.

Ling Hang cracked a smile, and said, "Be my attendant for a year."

Chapter 199: Subduing Guang Yuan

Translator: Reverie_ Editor: Kurisu

Guang Yuan immediately snorted, and said, "A tiny Element Gathering Tier martial artist like you has the impudence to ask me to be your attendant?" He was a cultivator at the formidable Spiritual Ocean Tier, and what sort of concept is that?

Right above Spiritual Ocean Tier was Spiritual Pedestal Tier, which was the strongest tier in the eight large noble families and royal family!

In other words, in Rain Country, there were only several hundred of those that could firmly suppress Guang Yuan.

Rain Country's population was around a hundred million—ranking in the top hundred out of a hundred million, that was really kickass, wasn't it?

"Change the condition!" he said.

"Then be my bodyguard for a year." Ling Han readily offered another condition.

What difference was there?

Guang Yuan opened his eyes wide; he had the urge to smack someone, but as he thought that Ling Han still had Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll Scroll's secrets, he had to restrain his temper. "Change to another one."

"Say, old brother Guang, you're too picky. A no on the left and a no on the right... just forget it, I'm too lazy to spend my thoughts on this." Ling Han shrugged, and was about to take Hu Niu's hand to leave.

"Huh?" After he walked two steps, he turned his head to say to Guang Yuan. "Old brother Guang what are you suggesting by grabbing onto my clothes?"

"Was this lord pulling on you, which eye did you see that with?"

Guang Yuan lied brazenly.

Ling Hang laughed aloud, and said, "Old brother Guang, if I don't help you with your cultivation technique, you won't let me go?"

"If you want to leave, just leave, this lord isn't a robber, how could I force you to stay here," Guang Yuan spoke frankly and righteously, but his hand was clutching onto the corner of Ling Han's clothes, unwilling to let go.

Ling Han laughed mischievously, and said, "Old brother Guang, just one year as a bodyguard, but in exchange there's hope for you to enter the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, do you think you'd lose out on this deal?"

Guang Yuan frowned. "Can you really promise that I'll break through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier?" Unknowingly, he chose to believe this youngster's facile remark; so what if he resolves the hidden injuries—breaking through to Spiritual Pedestal Tier was still incomparably difficult.

...There were only so many Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivators in Rain Country, all of whom belonged to the Imperial Family and Eight Great Clans—with the rare exception of other powerful parties, such as Heaven's Medicine Pavilion and Hu Yang Academy; it was unheard of for a lone cultivator to earn such an achievement.

"'Three Yang breaks heaven, origin's lock is layered,'" Ling Hang suddenly quoted.

Guang Yuan's complexion instantly changed, and he said, "How do you know Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll's verbal chant?"

"How strange, if I didn't know, then how would I fix your problem?" Ling Han smiled faintly.

Guang Yuan sighed, and said, "You Win!" This boy kept his calm, appearing to have a sure hold of him.

"Old brother Guang, don't be disappointed. You'll understand

later that this is the best choice you've made in your entire life." Ling Han laughed.

Guang Yuan shook his head, and said in helplessness, "Boy, you don't look like a master who settles in his place. This lord acting as your bodyguard will most definitely encounter some danger, maybe even handing over my life."

"Don't worry, at most a little danger, death is impossible!" Ling Han patted his shoulder.

"Whatever, now that this lord has already decided to ride on your pirate ship, there's no need to think more of it." Guang Yuan was one who unexpectedly met gains and losses with equanimity, no longer fussing over being Ling Han's bodyguard for a year.

Ling Han said, "'Three Yang breaks heaven, origin's lock is layered', this verbal chant is the problem when you cultivate. I met a person who was just like you, understanding those words as sealing origin power within the third backbone; this certainly can increase explosiveness, but with time, it will cause immense damage. If you continue to cultivate this way, in no less than three years, your backbone will collapse, and you'll become a cripple."

Guang Yuan couldn't help but be moved. For a formidable Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator, once their cultivation progress was lost, it was no different from dying. Moreover, with his recalcitrant personality, he often offended many people, and once he lost his cultivation, many people would definitely beat him when he was down... the terrible result of that need not be said.

"May I ask Young Master Han how this verbal chant should be interpreted?" He lowered his posture to seek guidance from Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled slightly; speaking of which, it really was coincidental. In his previous life, he met someone who cultivated the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll and also 'derailed' on that phrase of the verbal formula; moreover, the situation back then

was much worse as the man's backbone was completely shattered.

He was entrusted to refine a heaven grade pill that restored bones. Under careful consideration, he also took time to understand Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll to be absolutely safe, and that was how he was able to see through Guang Yuan's problem with a glance.

"Then let us talk it over," Ling Han said.

After a few minutes, Guang Yuan revealed a faithful look; with each expression he became more solemn and respectful. In his mind, Ling Han's status rose infinitely.

To know Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll was already impressive, but he obtained the incomplete scroll in an ancient tomb. Knowing the technique was one thing, one only needed a superb memory to remember it.

However, Ling Han surpassed the level of learning by rote, being even more knowledgeable about it than he was. It made him feel sudden enlightenment at times, with some parts that he normally didn't understand instantly becoming clear.

No wonder Ling Han said that he had a chance to advance into Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Ling Han's understanding was like that of a martial artist master, which made him feel extremely small.

Ling Han took a glance at him, and revealed a smile. Subduing Guang Yuan was only on a whim as he considered Feng Yan's threat and how Wu Song Lin and Fu Yuan Sheng couldn't wander behind his butt all day.

However, at most in one year, he would definitely reach Spiritual Ocean Tier and Guang Yuan would naturally be unable to help him. So, he set the period of a year; as for whether Guang Yuan wanted to leave or not, then that'd be based on whether or not he had the heart to take him under his wing.

Guang Yuan had to make arrangements, so he promised to go

find Ling Han three days later at Hu Yang Academy.

"A formidable Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator has so easily fallen under your control?" Liu Yu Tong still somewhat couldn't believe it.

"A mere Spiritual Ocean Tier." Ling Hang sighed. Put in his previous life, he wouldn't even want a Spiritual Ocean Tier to watch his door, but he was too weak right now, so he'd have to make do with Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Liu Yu Tong rolled her eyes. If a formidable Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator entered Liu family, it'd be guaranteed that Liu family's top brass would welcome him and shower with heavy promises.

'Will you die if you don't show off!?'

"I'll be Ling Han's bodyguard too!" Hu Niu said, unwilling to be outdone.

Ling Han laughed aloud, and said, "Good, from now on, I'll rely on Hu Niu for protection!"

Hu Niu instantly cracked a smile, appearing to be very happy.

After the three returned to the academy, Liu Yu Tong returned to her quarters, and Ling Han held Hu Niu's hand and returned to their courtyard. From afar, he saw a girl guarding the door, glancing around with an expression full of angst.

It was Yun Shuang Shuang.

"What, is Madam Yan inviting me for a meal?" Ling Han smiled as he said.

"Please, Young Master Han, save me!" Yun Shuang Shuang kneeled abruptly onto the ground.

Chapter 200: Lady Yan's Plans

"What's the matter?" Ling Han asked.

Yun Shuang Shuang only continued to weep. Thankfully, this place was quite remote. Otherwise, anyone would have thought Ling Han was bullying her.

"If you don't tell me, how am I supposed to help you? Fine, finish crying, then tell me." Ling Han opened the door and went back in. Right when he was about to close the door, Yun Shuang Shuang squeezed in and grabbed onto the corner of his shirt with a delicate hand.

"I say, why do all of you like to grab onto the corner of my shirt? It's understandable if it was Niu Niu, but men do this, and women do this too. I am really troubled by this," Ling Han said, shaking his head.

"En!" Hu Niu gave a strong nod, and made her opinion clear. "Ling Han is Niu's!"

"Milady, Milady, she..." It was obvious Yun Shuang Shuang was not in the mood for jokes. She had just opened her mouth to explain when she started to cry again.

Ling Han sighed, and said, "In three breaths' time, if you still persist in sniveling, I'll throw you out!"

"So mean!" Liu Ru Er walked out of the house, and glared harshly at Ling Han.

"En, it seems that it would not be enough to just simply throw one out!" Ling Han shuffled his sleeves.

"Haha, damn scoundrel, let me tell you. I have already recovered about 70% of my cultivation, and no longer need to fear your threats!" Liu Ru Er said proudly.

"Then why aren't the two of you quickly getting lost? Everything

you eat and use everyday is mine, don't you know all that needs money?" Ling Han said in irritation.

Liu Ru Er instantly exploded in anger. She felt that this guy did not have the slightest inclination to feel tender and protective towards women. It was obvious that she and her sister were rare beauties, but this guy did not bear any ideas or intentions towards them at all. What a weirdo!

Yi, could it be that he preferred men?

That was possible. Otherwise, how could he simply ignore the charm of her sister and her?

When she thought about this, she could not help but feel a shiver all over her body.

But after being interrupted by the banter between the two of them, Yun Shuang Shuang finally regained her composure, and said, "Please take me in, Young Master Han. Shuang Shuang has no other place to go."

"En?" Ling Han was startled, and said, "Aren't you of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion? But you actually came here to beg me for shelter; what kind of logic is that? Do you all think that my place is a garbage collection ground? One, two, and now three, and who knows if there will be even more in the future?"

Liu Ru Er was instantly furious, and said, "Who are you calling garbage?"

"Young Master Han, Milady... Milady is too cruel!" Yun Shuang Shuang once again began to weep.

"All right, all right. Just calm yourself and speak slowly. Start from the beginning. Don't keep speaking in one breath and crying in the next; otherwise, I really wouldn't be able to stand it," Ling Han said.

"Come, sit down first." Liu Ru Er rolled her eyes at Ling Han, and helped Yun Shuang Shuang into the house. After helping her to sit

down, she even fetched a cup of hot tea to calm Yun Shuang Shuang down.

Ling Han looked at Hu Niu, and Hu Niu looked back at him. The two simultaneously shrugged. They were the real owners, but why was it they seemed more like outsiders here?

Yun Shuang Shuang held onto the cup of tea and rested for a while before finally opening her mouth and telling her story.

Yan Tian Zhao managing to awake was supposed to be a good thing, but for Yun Shuang Shuang, it was the beginning of her nightmare. She had coincidentally eavesdropped on a conversation between Lady Yan and Yan Tian Zhao—it seemed that it was not because Lady Yan wanted a place to invest her energy and hopes into that she had been adopted. Instead, there had been a different motive for her adoption right from the beginning...

She was a furnace!

Lady Yan most likely knew that her son would not be able to awaken for quite some time, but there was only so much optimal time for cultivation for a martial artist, so how could she allow her son to lag behind at the starting line.

It just so happened that she had obtained an unusual cultivation technique that was divided into two—main and subsidiary—techniques. The subsidiary technique was to be cultivated by one person, while the main technique was to be cultivated by another. When the time came, as long as the two people cultivated together, then the person who had cultivated the main technique would be able to easily "swallow" the person who had cultivated the subsidiary technique—her cultivation and even vitality!

And the cultivation technique that she had practiced since her childhood was precisely the subsidiary technique, in order for her to pave the way for Yan Tian Zhao.

The reason why they had not taken action immediately was

because Yan Tian Zhao had only just awakened, and had just begun to cultivate the main technique. As long as he was slightly accomplished in his cultivation, they would take action, and by that time, not only would Yun Shuang Shuang lose all her cultivation, she would also lose her vitality. She would, in an extremely short period of time, become an old woman.

"If Milady had treated me sincerely, I am willing to die for Milady, no questions asked. But I can't accept this!" Yun Shuang Shuang had cried so much, her eyes were red.

"She's so evil! Too evil!" Liu Ru Er wiped her tears as well where she was standing. She was so easily moved to tears that Ling Han mocked her inside his head. 'Hey, you're an assassin, okay? Don't be so emotional, all right?'

Ling Han pondered for a moment, then said, "Lady Yan has been active for so many years, and must have a very wide system of connections and a similarly wide information network in the Imperial City. The fact that you're staying here would not be able to stay hidden for very long. At that time, when Lady Yan comes to seek you out, would you be able to resist?"

If she decided that she wanted to take her adopted daughter with her, that would be a right and proper thing. Even the laws of the Empire would side with Lady Yan—if Ling Han attempted to stop her, then it would be he who had kidnapped her daughter.

Ling Han had his backers, but so did Lady Yan, and her backer was also very powerful.

Yun Shuang Shuang could not help but pale, and began to shudder. She would rather die than be taken back by Lady Yan.

"That's right. Those two girls should have mostly recovered from their injuries. Why don't you go with them and leave Rain Country?" Ling Han suggested to Yun Shuang Shuang. That would be great; he'd be able to solve three huge problems in one go.

"Who told you we were leaving Rain Country?" Liu Ru Er leaped up. "I am definitely going to kill that traitor!"

"I think you're more likely to die than kill anyone!" Ling Han pointed out, dampening her enthusiasm, and continued, "It would be better if the two of you return and work hard on your cultivation. Xu Ke Xin has been deceived once, so she would definitely not fall into the trap a second time. The two of you no longer have the chance to set up a trap to ambush her."

Liu Ru Er pouted. She wanted to argue, but knew that Ling Han was telling the truth. The power gap between the two of them and Xu Ke Xin was too large, and they had also lost the advantage of taking the initiative. Thus, it was practically impossible for them to once again attempt to assassinate Xu Ke Xin.

"Mister Ling is right." Liu Feng Er walked out as well, and said, "When we finally recover from our injuries, we will immediately leave Rain Country. We are extremely grateful for how you have taken care of us for this period of time, and hope that there will be a chance for us two sisters to repay your kindness, Mister Ling."

"Ha, it would be the best repayment for me if you leave," Ling Han said bluntly.

"En! En!" Hu Niu nodded seriously as well.

This detestable guy!

Liu Ru Er humphed, and said, "Scoundrel, if you come to Fire Country in the future and get into trouble, remember to look for us. We will definitely take 'very good' care of you!"

She emphasized the words 'very good' heavily; obviously, she held a big grudge towards him.

"All right. You can stay with the two sisters for tonight, and leave after a few days," Ling Han said to Yun Shuang Shuang, pretending he had not heard anything.

"Thank you, Young Master Han. Thank you, Misses." Yun

Shuang Shuang lowered into a bow.

Peng, peng, peng. It was at this moment that there came a knock on the door, causing the four of them to be startled at the same time.

"Mister Ling, are you there?" A soft, sweet voice was heard from outside, yet it was this voice that caused Yun Shuang Shuang to shiver uncontrollably. Her face had paled completely from terror.

"Lady Yan?" the Liu sisters mouthed.

Ling Han nodded.

"Kill her!" Instantly, Liu Ru Er was boiling with killing intent.

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